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THE OTTAWA JEWISH

Bulletin



APRIL 3, 2000

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 12

27 ADAR 2, 5760

Kehila Task Force Report

Significant barriers deny universal access to established Jewish community services

By Carolyn Goldberg

It is widely believed that poverty doesn't exist in the Jewish community. In fact, 13 per cent, or more than 1,500 Jews living in the Ottawa-Carleton region, survive at or below the poverty line according to a study commissioned by the Kehila Task Force and reported in a recent Bulletin article. The Kehila Task Force was established by the Vaad Ha'Ir to bring together community agencies to collectively deal with the challenge of including disadvantaged members of the community.

Community services that are so important to these Jews are often not accessible for a variety of reasons. This was demonstrated in a second study, commissioned by the Kehila Task Force,

in which a sample of low income Jews were asked about their participation in Jewish community life. Jewish Family Services and Andrea Gardner facilitated this study and Allan Moscovitch served as an adviser.

Those interviewed explained that they felt significant barriers denied them access to Jewish community services. Some felt that, in general, information about these services is available in the community, but many of them explained, "you have to search".

Emotional barriers are also significant and discouraged the interviewees from accessing the needed services. In fact, one person explained that such feelings were his greatest barrier. He said,

(Continued on page 4)

Chevra Kadisha makes generous pledge

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

The Ottawa Chevra Kadisha, that dedicated group of volunteer men and women who quietly and consistently perform the highest of mitzvot, the preparation of the dead for burial, has made a generous pledge of an undisclosed amount to the Community Capital Campaign.

"The sale of the King Edward facility was one of the factors enabling the Chevra Kadisha to make this contribution to the Capital Campaign," said Sam Ages, Gabbai Rishon of the organization.

"We used saved up dollars to purchase the new chapel on Cuba Avenue plus we got a good return from the sale of the King Edward building. This allowed us the flexibility to make the contribution."

Capital Campaign Chair Roger Greenberg was effusive in his praise for the generosity shown by the organization. "The Ottawa Chevra Kadisha performs a unique and tremendously vital service to this community," he said. "While the organization enjoys representation on the Ottawa Jewish Community Council, it is financially independent of the Vaad and operates solely on its own."

"The community is blessed indeed to have in its midst this special assembly of people to perform this great mitzvah," Greenberg said. "They were made aware that notwithstanding the Campaign's tremendous success to date, we are still shy of what is needed to complete our new seniors' facility, so, we are grateful that they have chosen to reach

(Continued on page 26)



Visiting the Fire Station

The three- and four-year-olds in Debra Viner's Ilanot Class at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre's Ganon Preschool recently enjoyed a visit to the local Fire Station. Pictured with the fireman are (from left to right): Shira Benlolo, Ofek Maimon, Jacob Silverman, Evy Kassirer and Itzy Kamil.

Latest federal budget is good news for charities

By Julie Stevens
with Ron Csillag,
Staff Reporter,
Canadian Jewish News

Finance Minister Paul Martin's February 28 budget has once again made it easier to donate publicly traded stocks, bonds and other securities. Martin has reduced the amount of capital gains on which a donor is taxed on contribution of securities to charities from 37.5 per cent to 33 per cent.

Three years ago a similar reduction was made from 75 per cent to 37.5 per cent. The UJA Federation of Greater Toronto says that following that 1997 reduction there was a definite increase in the number of

large donations done through trading stocks. This new reduction is expected to again increase the number of donors who donate stocks.

Here in Ottawa, the United Jewish Appeal and the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation can benefit from the reduction of capital gains taxes. Many individuals have seen significant appreciation in their stock portfolio and now have a great opportunity to donate those stocks to charities while at the same time save money.

Vaad Executive Director Mitchell Bellman feels this is wonderful news for the community. "Many people have already taken advantage of the benefits of donating

(Continued on page 20)

Publications Mail Registration No. 07519

Birthright Israel	Pages 6 +12
Profile: Claudine Simson	Page 16
Why I Volunteer	Page 17
Profile: Melane Hotz	Page 22
Book Review	Page 30

Art Works	Page 31
Sixty Something	Page 31
From Soup to Nuts	Page 32
Kid Lit	Page 33
Endowments	Pages 34-35

COMMENTARY

We all have a responsibility to support our community



VAAD REPORT

STEPHEN GREENBERG
PRESIDENT, VAAD HA'IR

The annual UJA Ottawa campaign is the primary source of support for the Jewish community of Ottawa. While UJA is not the only source of funds that supports our Jewish community it is by far the largest and most important. Our annual campaign allows us to commit resources to a diverse array of worthwhile local agencies, national organizations and international causes. In Ottawa, these funds are crucial to the ongoing operations of Jewish Family Services, the Soloway JCC, Hillel Lodge, Hillel Academy, Yitzhak Rabin High School, and a host of other agencies.

As Jews, we are called upon to support many charities both within the Jewish community and in the larger community as well. It is a source of great pride

that Jews participate strongly and hold leadership positions in charitable campaigns including the United Way, CHEO, the Ottawa Hospital, and the Queensway Carleton Hospital. But when we participate in those campaigns we join members of the larger community of Ottawa in a combined effort.

When we are called upon to support the annual UJA Ottawa campaign, we are joined, for the most part, only by other members of our Jewish community. It is Jews alone who are asked to support the Jewish institutions that we all value and which make Ottawa a wonderful and vibrant Jewish community. While we are fortunate to have some Ottawa companies generously sponsor our events and to have non-Jews donate to the campaign, UJA's fundamental focus is asking one Jew to support another Jew.

One problem we have faced in Ottawa for as long as anyone can remember is that our UJA campaign drags on too long. What should be a four month campaign from September to December now literally goes 12 months a year. There are a number of reasons why this happens. Some donors are reluctant to commit their gifts, some prefer not to see their assigned can-

vassers, some campaign workers, despite their best intentions, just don't get around to the task. Regardless of the reasons, the result is that an extraordinary amount of effort is expended by campaign leadership and staff to complete the campaign.

The lack of closure to the campaign creates problems for our allocation process. The Vaad starts this process at the end of March and decisions are made by mid-May. We need to know how much money will be available from the campaign before we can commit to fund existing beneficiaries or to fund any new initiatives. As a result we need people to make their commitments to UJA now.

If you have not already done so, please make your pledge to the 2000 UJA Ottawa campaign today. If you have not yet honoured a past pledge, please do so today. Ottawa has a wonderful Jewish community. We all have a responsibility to support it to the best of our abilities.

On behalf of the officers of the Vaad, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy Pesach.

Jewish teens at risk

According to a recent report from orthodox circles in my native Brooklyn, there are some 4,000 orthodox Jewish teens living there who have been described as "at-risk" individuals. They are into drugs, promiscuous sex and other illicit activities. While the number, mathematically, only measures a small percentage of that age group of youth in the orthodox neighbourhoods of Brooklyn, each "lost soul" constitutes a major loss to the Jewish community at large, not to mention the families involved.

While there are those who find sadistic satisfaction in these horrifying statistics, one could only begin to imagine how many of our non-orthodox youth are in the same situation as their orthodox brothers and sisters and who are not part of any official study. To those who believe that the phenomenon of "at-risk" children cannot affect their community, I say, wake up. Even if we restrict our children's access to the media, as some claim we should, be it represented in the guise of television, the Internet, or newspapers and books, be aware, that these children one hopes to protect have and do gain access and exposure to influences that are profoundly negative.

It is gratifying that the orthodox in the New York City area are beginning to seriously address the issue of "at-risk" children. For example, the *Jewish Observer*, the magazine of the Agudath Israel of America, has dedicated an entire issue to this particular situation. Conferences are being held throughout the orthodox world to try to find some resolution and solutions to the problems posed by these teens. There are no pat solutions, no immediate panaceas. But there is some religious guidance and principles we can derive from the writings of our sages of blessed memory, and from the texts of our tradition, messages which remains timeless.

King Solomon reminds us in the Book of Proverbs that one must educate the student according to his particular path. There has to be recognition that students learn differently from one another. Many of the 4,000 teens cited above are those who have been expelled from their yeshivot, who have not been able to fit into the mould of the 'normative' yeshiva student. Some yeshivot live under the delusion that there is only one legitimate method of study which can be acceptable, and that those who cannot live with it must leave.

That some students are concrete learners and that others are abstract learners is ignored by many yeshivot. How concerned are they with the development of the



FROM THE PULPIT

RABBI HOWARD FINKELSTEIN
BETH SHALOM WEST

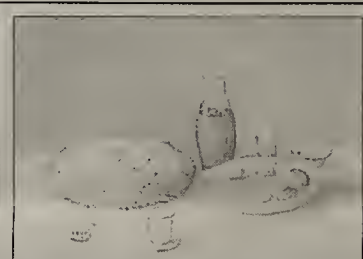
individual according to his particular personality than with the need to clone or mass produce multitudes of Talmidei Chachamim? Do not ignore the words of the rabbis who tell us that only one in 10,000 can become a Talmudic scholar.

The rabbis of the Talmud recognized that there are different types of students who must be treated and dealt with uniquely. The Four Sons of the Haggadah, as well as the description of the various types of students discussed in Pirkei Avot, in Chapter Five, speak well to the sages' awareness of different learning styles and capabilities. While space considerations limit this writer's ability to go into full detail regarding Talmudic approaches to education for different types of students, one must come to the conclusion that one educational approach does not fit all.

It goes without saying that the home is the key factor in the proper environmental upbringing of teens. Do we show enough love and care for our children when young, or do we worry more about our careers? Do all of our children receive our attention when they need it, or do they have to book an appointment to see us? When it comes to the question of career versus family, what should the obvious answer be?

As one who works on a daily basis with teens both at Yitzhak Rabin High School and at Beth Shalom West, I have had the opportunity to interact with wonderful young men and women who individually contribute so much to the community around them. Each has given me a different perspective of life, each is unique in how he or she learns and identifies with Judaism. I pray that they will continue to grow in their love for Judaism.

Hopefully, the term, "at-risk" will never apply to them or to any of our youth in the Ottawa Jewish community. But we cannot sit back and relax. We must be there for our youth spiritually, emotionally, educationally, for if we are not there for them, then we are at risk of losing them and our future.



Pesach 2000/5760
Thursday, April 20
through
Thursday, April 27
First Seder, Wednesday April 19

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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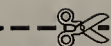
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and Rose Ages
Family Building.**

**The Loblaws UJA
Walkathon 2000
Opening
Ceremonies
will officially
begin
at 9:30 am.**

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The Tikvah Poverty Assistance Fund, a project that was intended as short-term assistance, helps approximately 100 Jewish families each month. Most of the recipients could not survive without the extra funds. Unfortunately, the need is growing.

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By participating in the Loblaws/UJA Walkathon on May 28th, 2000, I waive and release any and all claims for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators against all sponsors, officials and organizers of the Loblaws / UJA Ottawa Walkathon for injury, illness or death which may directly or indirectly result from my participation in this event. I agree to the use of my name and picture in publicity resulting from the Loblaws / UJA Ottawa Walkathon. I am physically fit to participate in this event. I understand and agree with the contents of this Waiver / Release prior to participating in the Loblaws / UJA Ottawa Walkathon.

Signature of Participant or Guardian _____ Date _____

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- To ease administrative costs, please collect all your pledges in advance.

The Pre-Registration Dates for this event are May 23 - 26, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - UJA Office, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1720 Kerr Avenue

ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Significant barriers deny access to ... community services

(Continued from page 1)

"At first it was kind of embarrassing for me because I've never had to live at what I call 'this low of a life'... This is the only set-back I had as far as going there. It was my own personal insecurity".

Most of the interviewees explained that they were able to overcome these emotional barriers, but at a cost. As one confided, "After a certain amount of being poor, you stop having emotional concerns because survival becomes more important than your pride."

Many of the identified barriers stem from financial hardship. Low-income Jews cannot access many of the programs, services and activities that allow for participation in, and identification with, Jewish life. For example, interviewees felt excluded from the Soloway Jewish Community Centre because of the cost. Another respondent shared that, "there are cultural activities that go on that I'd like to go to but I can't because of money or no transportation or both."

The study also showed that moving the Jewish Community Centre has made it much less accessible for low-income Jews residing east of Nepean. Most live in Vanier, downtown and Hull. The location of the present facilities, services, and programs makes access nearly impossible, even when other barriers are overcome.

Respondents stated, "Various events, courses, workshops whatever, everything

is so far away. It's in Nepean and it would take two hours to get there [by bus] and that's one way". Other physical barriers also exist. For example, one respondent pointed out that because Jewish Family Services is located "on the second floor of a building with no elevator, it is difficult for those with mobility problems to access".

Another service that was frequently mentioned in regards to location was the Kasher Food Bank. One respondent explained, "Poor people take buses ... it would take me forever on a Sunday". Furthermore, respondents added, "Then you have to be able to carry everything they've given you on two buses". Locating the food bank at Agudath Israel Synagogue is also problematic for some of the people interviewed. As one woman confided, "I would run into people there ... it put me in a number of awkward positions".

Still, respondents all appreciate this service. They feel that it is an exceptionally important and much needed resource within the Jewish community. Generally it is felt that this service "is well organized and very generous". Several respondents also emphasized their appreciation for food vouchers in cases where the food bank's services were not appropriate or could not be accessed.

A variety of other Jewish services were also mentioned by those interviewed. Respondents' experiences with

synagogues in the Ottawa-Carleton region were mixed. One couple recounted their appreciation of their synagogue and toward their rabbi for being so warm and caring throughout their grieving process. Others mentioned that they did not feel comfortable in certain synagogues. All participants of the study agreed that Jewish Family Services is a warm, safe, accessible, and welcoming place to find various forms of support and assistance.

Parents reported that the Jewish academic institutions were willing to go to great lengths to accommodate their children. One mother gratefully shared, "They let us go to the Jewish school for \$50 a month" and another commented, "The Jewish school [is] pretty much geared to income so that it's very fair". However, some parents felt embarrassed by the interrogation to secure these subsidized prices. As one mother put it, "Why do they need to know certain information? That's judging me. They asked me, do you drive a car, do you go on vacation, who is your husband, who are your parents... I find it very intrusive, but I have to overlook that to get my son into Hebrew school. They say the information is confidential but is it?"

Another said, "When I walked up the first day of school they said, 'Oh, I didn't know your [child] was going here.' It's an undertone, an air they exude."

Numerous respondents also described feelings of loneliness and felt that there was a significant gap in social programs within the Jewish community. Respondents described a need for a welcoming environment where they could mix freely with other Jews without being self-conscious of their low-income status. This included the need for supportive volunteers, for support groups, for singles clubs, for drop-in centre/kosher soup kitchens, and generally for more social activities within the Jewish community.

The interviewees suggested that an accessible Jewish centre could provide a much-needed source of social support. They elaborated on a variety of services

(Continued on page 8)

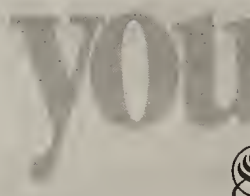


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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Attention parents - Birthright works!

By Alyce Baker

Birthright - it's become a buzz-word in Jewish communal lingo. The name has become synonymous with Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, the two philanthropists that dreamt up this initiative and brought it to fruition.

The idea of Birthright Israel was to give young Jews "a gift" - a free trip to Israel.

Both Bronfman and Steinhardt shared the vision of trying to cultivate an increased commitment to Judaism. They thought that by reintroducing young people to their roots, their culture and their history, then maybe assimilation of Jewish youth could be stemmed.

We all know many Jewish youth who have chosen to make a memorable journey to Israel. But all too many others just did

n't care. However, who could refuse a free trip? In making this offer, the organizers hoped to attract the unaffiliated, the unidentified, the uncaring.

Well, it worked! In North America, 15,000 young people applied for 4,000 spaces. Canada sent 1,000. In Ottawa, well over 80 applied for 40 spots. In total, 6,000 from around the world will have visited the Jewish homeland after this inaugural visit. Over 200 articles in newspapers around the world, including the *Ottawa Citizen*, chronicled the details of this undertaking.

A partnership has now been created between Israel and the Diaspora to address the problem of continuity. So many young people who normally would never have contemplated coming to this far-off land have

now discovered not only a new world but a new person within themselves. The participants' comments speak for themselves:

"I previously struggled with being Jewish."

"My perceptions changed."

"I now have a new identity."

The intense 10-day programming highlighting all of Israel's riches was meant to educate, to inspire and to enrich. Themes included history, contemporary Israeli society, Zionism, holy places and the Holocaust.

Participants were imbued with the passion and pride of a people and a nation. The success of Birthright is that these feelings live on even after the participants have returned home. For example, a group of Ottawans pledged to terminate relationships with non-Jews upon their return and their promises were carried out.

Birthright has future trips in the works including one in both May and July of this year. Priority will be given to those who

first applied. However, the plan is to eventually send everyone who has expressed an interest.

In order to continue this vital program, a partnership has been created among several philanthropists, the Israeli government and Federations in North America. Together they hope to raise sufficient funds to underwrite this initiative. The second aspect of this endeavour, still in the planning stages, is to purchase New Born gift slots so that every Jewish child born will be given an opportunity of an Israeli Experience.

Parents should encourage any youth between the ages of 18 and 26 to share this odyssey to define a Jewish identity. The only criterion is never having been on an organized Israeli Experience tour.

For more information in Ottawa, call Sheri Chiprout (798-9818 ext: 243) or Stacia Benovitch (236-2345).

(See related story on page 12)

MAILBAG

German-Jewish Second World War veterans wanted for documentary

A Chicago film production company is seeking German-Jewish war veterans who left from Germany, Austria, German-partitioned Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia during 1933-1941 to later serve in the US or Canadian Military or with the Allied Forces in the Second World War and who fought in Europe or North Africa in the war against Germany.

We are also seeking relatives, friends,

colleagues, commanding officers and fellow soldiers who can speak in detail about these German-Jewish refugees.

The respondents will be interviewed in their home communities. Our intention is to record these personal recollections and living histories on film for broadcast.

Please contact Steve Karras (773-342-6292) or Julia W. Rath (847-677-6018) at Beach Street Films. Or e-mail us at steve.land@earthlink.net or j_w_rath@netze-ro.net.



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Monday, April 17

Tuesday, April 18

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**The Creative Kosher Cafe will be closed
for Passover from Wednesday, April 19
through until Thursday, April 27.**

We will reopen Friday, April 28 at 8 am.

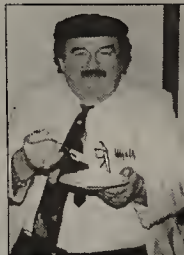
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SALE AND PICK-UP DATES AT MACHZIKEI HADAS

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Monday/Tuesday	April 17/18	9:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	April 19	9:00 am - noon

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Brenda Van Vliet, for desktop publishing and production matters

ext. 275

ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Spring Fever hits Ottawa

Kristi Walek, an extraordinary business-woman and entrepreneur who has turned a lifelong passion for gardening - specifically centred on seeds - into an internationally known seed house, Gardens North, will be UJA Ottawa Women's Campaign featured speaker on Thursday, April 13. The event will take place at 7:30 pm in the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue.

Formerly a civil litigation lawyer, Walek left law after the birth of her first child in 1984, plunged into gardening and has never looked back.

Gardens North grew out of love, passion and a very public daydream. In 1991, during a radio interview with Peter Gzowski of *Morningside* in her then Ottawa city garden, Walek announced to CBC listeners that she had "always wanted to start a seed business offering hardy rare perennials to Canadians." From that public revelation came a deluge of requests for seeds. Walek's response was the initial launch of 500 copies of a 30 page catalogue of seeds collected from her own garden and personally financed. Gardens North was born! The business now prints five thousand 130-page catalogues and supplies nurseries, organic gardeners, and other seed houses in South America, Great Britain, Japan, Sweden, Australia, the United States, and Canada with seeds collected worldwide.

As the seed business grew, so did the need for more

production space and display garden space. In 1993, Gardens North, its founder, and her family moved to a rural eight acre site in North Gower. The property, which is open to the public during summer Open Garden Weekends, includes, in addition to its seed production facilities, five acres of display gardens featuring three large, interconnecting ponds, waterfalls, rock and crevice gardens, and a vast collection of unusual herbaceous and woody plants.

"Spring Fever will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to further our knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening, and to strengthen our Jewish roots as well," says Rosalyn Fremeth, who, with Deborah Saginur, is organizing the evening. "Gardeners and community supporters have much in common; we are fervently committed to nurturing, sharing, and making the focus of our attention - be it a garden or a community of people - stronger, more vigorous and better able to flourish."

Walek's talk and visual presentation will enrich the knowledge of Ottawa gardeners who struggle with an increasingly warm and dry Northern climate. She will touch on specific topics including ornamental grasses, water features, and pond planting, with an approach accessible to the beginner as well as the experienced gardener.

Spring Fever is open to all. For information, contact Jean at the UJA office (798-4696 ext. 250).



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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Significant barriers deny access to ... community services

(Continued from page 4)

that they envision for the centre including a games lounge, a designated area for artistic activities, and a variety of social services. One woman explained the importance of such Jewish services. She said, "I hate going to churches to get services. I've gotten so inured to it because I've had to do it for so many years". Another strongly held view was the need for a Jewish employment service with Jewish employers, to create more economic independence.

As respondents spoke of their needs and of some of the gaps that they feel exist within the Jewish community, religious and ethnic identity issues continued to come up. Respondents explained that they want to be able to access programs and services in order to participate in Jewish life. One young woman expressed the need for Jewish foster

care. Respondents also indicated that they would like to participate in Jewish adult education classes. For many informants, increased opportunity for participation in Jewish life was very important, but others insisted that they could not be concerned about such matters when their basic needs were not being met.

A large majority of respondents felt that what was lacking was a sense of belonging, of Jewish community, and of being cared about. Interviewees claim they feel like outsiders within the Jewish community in Ottawa. Many respondents confided that they are always aware that they are living on the fringes and that they do not belong. However, several respondents also spoke of the goodness that clearly exists within the Ottawa Jewish community.

The consensus was that for systemic change to occur, the Jewish community

at large needs to become aware of the current situation for low-income Jews. Interviewees felt that a significant part of the problem is that members of the community "don't like to hear it, that [this] situation exists". One interviewee suggested, "empathy is the starting point for doing something".

Empathy develops through education and awareness. The Kehila Task Force,

working together with community leaders and community organizations, is committed to help increase education regarding the needs and feelings of low-income Jews, and to improve access to and coordination of services and policies to better meet their needs.

Carolyn Goldberg, commissioned by the Kehila Task Force, interviewed the subjects for this study.

St. Pat's to perform "Diary of Anne Frank"

St. Pat's High School Drama Club will be presenting *The Diary of Anne Frank* from May 3 to 5 at the school, 2525 Alta Vista Drive. According to Drama Coach Paul Armstrong, the play is being dedicated to the victims and survivors of the

Holocaust.

Curtain time is 7:30 each night and tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students/seniors.

For more information call the school (733-0501).



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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



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Marcia and Barry Cantor are JNF's 'new couple on the board'

Marcia and Barry Cantor, JNF Ottawa's new couple on the Board, were already longtime JNF supporters when their eldest son, Jeremy, became Bar Mitzvah.

"We decided to purchase a JNF project in Israel to honour the milestone in Jeremy's life," Barry says. "And we also decided that, following his Bar Mitzvah, we would take the whole family to Israel for the dedication of Jeremy's project."

The trip was magic. "The people at Keren Kayemeth L'Israel couldn't have been more accommodating," Marcia says. "They were absolutely wonderful to us. They made it a trip to remember."

Jeremy's project, 'Pioneer of the Arava', is a major desertification project aimed at reclaiming arid land in Israel's southern region for agricultural purposes.

When a few years later Number Two Son, David, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, Marcia and Barry marked the occasion in exactly the same way. His proud parents purchased a JNF project in Israel in David's honour, herded the whole family onto a plane and flew off to Israel for the dedication of David's 'Pioneer of the Jubilee Forest' project, Ottawa Section in Yotv. And, once again, the people at Keren Kayemeth L'Israel were tremendously accommodating.

Today Marcia and Barry Cantor sit as valued members of the JNF Ottawa Board. Marcia co-chaired the highly successful 2000 Tu B'Shevat Telethon. Barry headed up the Corporate Sponsors Division for the November 1999 Negev Dinner honouring Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli while Marcia co-chaired dinner arrangements.

With Number Three Son, Benjamin, poised to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in 2002, chances are excellent that the Cantor clan will be off to Israel en masse to dedicate the JNF project yet to be established in his honour. And, as before, the folks at Keren Kayemeth L'Israel will be waiting with open arms to welcome the family.

"JNF does incredible work in Israel," says Barry. "It is our pleasure to be working on behalf of this remarkable organization."

JNF's May tour to Israel

Your JNF Israel Tour 2000 flight to Israel departs on Thursday, May 11 and returns home Tuesday, May 23. Plan to be on board! For information, call the JNF office (798-2411).

Meet our half dozen B'nai Mitzvah

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to our six B'nai Mitzvot, twins Ryan and Steven Akman, Jessica Ellison, Jessica Loeb, Logan Miller and Rachel Stone. The proud parents of this impressive group of youngsters chose to add a meaningful dimension to the occasion by inscribing their celebrant's name in the Sefer Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Golden Book inscription

In honour of her Bat Mitzvah, Jessica Loeb has been inscribed in the Golden Book by Grandpa David and Adele Loeb.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (798-2411).



Marcia Cantor



Barry Cantor

Talent 760

Machzikei Hadas presents fourth annual art and music show

By Pat Binder

Talent 760, the fourth annual art and music show presented by Machzikei Hadas, will take place on April 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

The show will feature artists, artisans, photographers, sculptors, potters, and jewellers. Participants include: Deborah Abtan, Janet Agulnik, Caroline Baylin, Ariel Ben David, David Ben-Reuven, Eli Benzaquen, Shirley Birnboim, Violetta Borisonnik, Claire Cohen, Sharon Cooper, Andrew Fainer, Roslyn Frankl, Pnina Granirer, Al Green, Maryon Kantaroff, Elena Keen, Sylvia Klein, Arthur Lerner, Dora Litwack, George Marcus, David Makow, May Marx, Deborah Mirsky Cosman, Stephanie Moore, Lila Nathans, Irving Osterer, Zena Pearl, Peter Schwartzman, Susan Scott, Sharon Stevens, Roz Tabachnik, Teena Tarantour Goldberg, Sonia Tarantour Pearl, Lily Tobin, Dov Vinograd, Marilen Vivanco-Sternberg and Haze Weinberg.

The musical portion of the show will feature the following singers, musicians and poets: John Brockway, Carole Cherun, Hannah Cleman, Oonagh Elliott, Andrew Eamer, Nigel Harris, Madeline Joseph, Jackie Langsner, Helen Lee, Leonard Leikovitch, Robin Mader, Peter McLellan, Mark Richardson, Harvey Steinwald, Molly Teitlebaum, Haze Weinberg, Eric Wilner and Aharon (Ron) Zohar.

A Silent Auction will include popular items and services.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

OJHS opens season with Dr. Lionel Metrick

The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society (OJHS) invites the community to hear Dr. Lionel Metrick review the distinguished life of the late David Petegorsky. The event will take place on Sunday, May 7, at 7:30 pm at Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue.

Ottawa-born Petegorsky, affectionately known as "Dodie", was not only an outstanding public speaker, but also a gifted scholar. He was valedictorian of the class of 1935 at Yeshiva University in New York

City where he majored in philosophy and political science. The following year, he received his rabbinical ordination at the age of 21 at Yeshiva University's R. Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

In 1940, at the age of 25, he was awarded a PhD from London University in London, England. His doctoral thesis entitled "Left-wing democracy in the English civil war" was completed in about three years, published in 1940 and reprinted in 1972 and 1997.

At the time of his untimely death in 1956, Petegorsky was the executive director of the American Jewish Congress. In a moving tribute, it was said that "David Petegorsky was considered the most brilliant and most constructive mind in the American Jewish public service". In memory of an illustrious alumnus, the Yeshiva College Alumni Association, family and friends established the David Petegorsky Chair in Political Science at Yeshiva University.



Dr. Lionel Metrick



David Petegorsky

Among Petegorsky's surviving siblings is Beverly Chodikoff of Ottawa.

Adath Israel Outremont alumni plan September reunion

Driven by the desire to recognize the institution that was the foundation for their Hebrew education, alumni of the Adath Israel Schools of Outremont (Montreal) Quebec are preparing to stage a massive reunion to mark the Year 2000, and the 60th anniversary of the founding of their alma mater.

An estimated 800 men and women graduated from the elementary and high schools during their quarter century of operations and many of them have gone on to fame and fortune not only in Montreal, but in major centres in North Amer-

ica and abroad.

The reunion committee is hoping to locate and attract every graduate to the September 16 to 18 weekend which will be highlighted by the former students "taking over" the Sabbath morning services at the current Adath Israel Congregation as well as a special dinner at the synagogue.

It was on March 31, 1940 that dedication ceremonies were held to officially open the Adath Israel Congregation of Outremont which gave birth to the first congregation-sponsored Hebrew Day School in Canada, with an initial registra-

tion of 177 pupils, using classrooms within the synagogue.

Spearheaded by Rabbi Charles Bender, founding president Joel Sternthal and Mordecai Mendelsohn as educational director, the objective was to create an institution devoted to the spiritual welfare of the young Jewish people in the Montreal suburb that was growing by leaps and bounds, notwithstanding the horrors of the Second World War.

By 1943, the existing facilities were deemed to be inadequate, and so a self-contained school building was to be built,

adjacent to the synagogue. Because of the war effort, construction was delayed and it opened for the school term in September 1947. Demand for the Adath Israel system of education grew and by 1950, the sod had been turned for a high school building which was officially opened two years later.

The Adath Israel schools remained independent until 1966 when dwindling enrolment and difficult financial circumstances dictated a merger with the Young Israel congregational school, which was

(Continued on page 25)

TALENT 760

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FEATURE

Birthright Israel

When we returned to Zion we were like dreamers

By Hailey Eisen

As I stepped off the airplane, surrounded by hundreds of Canadian Jewish youths, and stood on Israeli ground for my very first time, the past month's excitement and anticipation finally became real. I had been dreaming of this moment since I first learned that I had been chosen to participate in this free trip to Israel courtesy of Birthright. The emotions that I felt now, however, were far more incredible than anything I could have ever imagined.

The experience really began with the plane ride from Montreal to Tel Aviv. There was excitement in the air, as 500 Jewish young adults, most from similar walks of life, met and became acquainted. The experience of travelling to Israel for the first time is incredible, however, it is even more meaningful to be able to share this experience with others who are also undergoing the same flood of emotions. Together we counted the hours as the plane carried us closer and closer to the land of our people: a rich and vibrant land, ready for us to discover.

As I have come to learn, it is impossible

to adequately explain in words all that I experienced during my 10 days in Israel. There really is no way, other than through firsthand experience, to fully capture and understand the magic that is Israel. Throughout this incredible trip, I came to understand why Jews come from all over the world to visit and reside in Israel, and why Israelis speak about their country with such pride and fervor. If you come to Israel with an open mind and an open heart, it is almost impossible not to be affected by the beauty, the secrets, and the history of this land.

The purpose of Birthright Israel, paid for in total by philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt and the Israeli government, was not to force Judaism on the participants nor to push religious beliefs and customs. We travelled through the country and were guided through its sights in a very professional and meaningful way. Our madrichim (counsellors) and tour guide became our close friends, and through their knowledge and insights we were given the opportunity to learn and discover more

(Continued on page 28)



Members of the Ottawa delegation plant trees while in Israel (from left to right): Caryn Hirshhorn, Jessica Marks, Robyn Parnes, Sarah Ottman, Hailey Eisen and Tara Cutler.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

The Kosher Food Bank continues to need your support

At this time of year, there is always a flurry of activity planning and preparing for Passover.

It is also a time when perhaps you could include in your plans a donation to the Kosher Food Bank for those who are experiencing difficulties.

Agudath Israel Synagogue's Kosher Food Bank, in conjunction with Jewish Family Services, has now completed its third year of successful service to the community, providing food twice a

month to needy families. Since its inception in March 1997, 181 families have been served. Each order provides a variety of non-perishable foods such as soups, juices, pasta, rice, tomato sauce and pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, cereals, peanut butter, jam, tea, coffee, sugar, cookies, salmon and tuna. Frozen chicken, ground meat, margarine and Rideau Bakery bread are also included in each order.

Depending upon donations received,

additional food and personal care products are added. Each order is customized according to the size and special needs of the family.

Temple Israel now assists by packing and distributing the orders the first week of each month and Agudath Israel does the third week of each month. This year for Purim, the Molly Betcherman Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO baked and donated Hamantashen for the holiday distribution.

Much time and effort is needed to keep this project operating smoothly and the many dedicated volunteers are indeed performing a great mitzvah. For Passover, consider sending funds for food instead of flowers to your family and friends.

Donations can be made by calling the Agudath Israel Synagogue office (728-3501); non-perishable food may be dropped off at the synagogue any day except Saturday.

To the Jewish people

By Faina Blagodarova

Translated from the Russian by John Woodsworth

So torn apart by sufferings is Your nation,
The victim of so many a xenophobe,
So much oppression and humiliation
Wherever You've been scattered o'er the globe!

You've seen it all - the Hitlers, inquisitions,
The Tsars and Stalins, all the other scum ...
Your bodies have been trampled, overrun -
The first to feel the brunt of world derision.

Upon Your bones - not anybody's - Yours -
Maidanek's corpses rose in piles of shadows ...
Its ovens turned to dust your lives, your tears -
And human ashes wafted o'er the meadows.

The "doctor's plot", the Beylis court case too,
And all the lies that of You have been said,
The pogroms, beatings, even the word *Jew* -
The sword of Damocles hung overhead.

'Twas You who outlined by the hand of David
The psalm that has become our timeless tryst ...
But Christians took offence (some even hated!),
Forgetting it was You who gave them Christ.

You many times adapted, changed your names ...
"Time-servers all!" - You heard the scornful greetings ...
But You endured the scorn, and painful beatings ...
Your seed preserved itself to rise again.

And rise it did, through layers of virgin ground,
Though coarsely trampled under soldiers' feet,
Though burnt by flames of battle all around,
And rained upon by clouds of leaden sleet.

Your life must help all those whom time forgot,
Who strayed in darkness, overwhelmed by fears,
And all those outcasts whom the world loved not,
Whom threats and executions drove to tears.

A suffering people, yes! but never broken ...
You're kind to all, but firm when faced by wrong ...
Your name is now, forever, proudly spoken,
Eternally unbowed, my Nation strong!

Editor's note: Faina Blagodarova is a Russian-Canadian who is temporarily living in Washington, DC. She is not only a poet, but a singer and novelist. Her book Oh, Those Dark Eyes ... was published last year.


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Happy Passover to the Ottawa Jewish Community

ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Claudine Simson: working hard at life

By Kinneret Globerman

There are two things Claudine Simson is unwaveringly certain of: The first is that you can be a woman and have it all. The second is, it takes a lot of work.

Claudine Simson is the 46-year-old mother of two teen-aged daughters. She is also the vice-president of Global Technology Research and Intellectual Property for Nortel Networks (whose fourth quarter net earnings for 1999 were \$417 million US). And, she is an adjunct professor of engineering at the University of Toronto, sits on numerous research institution and university boards, travels extensively, and volunteers in the Jewish community.

How, you may well ask, does she do it all? Well, with mathematical precision, she balances her family and personal life with the demands of a highly specialized management job. And she does it with fierce determination and discipline.

"It's a question of balancing first, and you have to be extremely good at planning," she says. "My time is planned by the minute, including the weekends. I always try to put my family and my husband first when it's a question of priorities. I jam-pack my days, no breaks, and wake up early in the morning."

When Simson says "early", she means at 3 a.m. That's when she gets her global calls done (a good time to reach her "guys" in Australia), her e-mails, voice mail and correspondence answered, her reports read.

"I don't have to sleep a lot. I'm very fortunate."

As upper management in one of the fastest growing high-tech companies in Canada, in an area of expertise changing almost daily, Simson can't afford not to be highly disciplined in organizing her time down to every available minute of her hectic day.

But then, Simson has always been disciplined. From the time she was a young girl until she entered engineering at the age of 16, Simson studied piano, *really* studied. She played competitively in her homeland, in France, winning awards, performing at concerts. When the time came to make a choice between piano or engineering, she was torn. The choice she ultimately made changed the course of her life.

Simson was born in Angers, France in the Loire Valley. Her parents and family lived comfortably, unaffected by the Second World War as the south of France was spared from Occupation. She attended an all-girls elementary school until Grade 8, and fell in love. The object of her affections: mathematics.

"I just love math," she enthuses. "My first love really is mathematics and science. I think it's because it's really pushing the brain. I love to do that. I love to do math puzzles. It's really intellectually very challenging to solve equations, to create stuff, to put something you learn in practice and create something."

Simson's Grade 8 math teacher urged her young student to attend another school that offered a gifted program in the discipline. That "other" school was for boys.

"My father said, 'So, how do you feel about that?'. Simson recalls. "I said, 'I don't mind; I love math. So let's go for it! And I did."

There was no adjustment to speak of at the all-boys school. Simson doesn't recall any teasing from her male peers, and part of the reason, she says, is that in France - in the private schools, at any rate - there is more of an emphasis on academic achievement and less on socializing or fitting the mold.

"France is a very intellectual country, so your gender doesn't matter. You've got

the brains, you succeed. Nobody cares or makes a big deal out of gender. It's a very different environment."

Math led her into engineering. Following high school, Simson attended La Grande École, one of the specialized engineering schools in Toulouse, France. She was 16. By the time she was hired by Bell-Northern Research (then the Research and Development arm of Nortel) in 1978, she was the youngest PhD in France. She had already met her husband, who had been a student of engineering himself, and whose sister had urged him to come to Canada to investigate all of the job opportunities available there in science. He had left France a year earlier with an MBA and was already working for Bell-Northern Research.

When Bell-Northern interviewed Simson on one of their international hiring trips, Simson was given three job offers, one in Montreal and two in Ottawa. She chose the one in Ottawa that focussed on her own field of micro-electronics. She had already published numerous papers in French, English and Spanish so language was not an issue for her. At least, English scientific and business language was not an issue. What was difficult was the cultural and social language, the nuances of office chatter and jokes. But the fact that she was female and Jewish was never a problem.

"It's an intellectual environment," Sim-



Claudine Simson

son says. "It doesn't matter you're female, you're Jewish, you're Muslim; it doesn't matter. It's your brain that counts. It's your work independent of nationality or gender."

"As long as you deliver and you never fail the company."

What did seem to matter, here in Canada, was her profession.

"When you're an engineer [in France], you're a somebody. You're the top of the top. When I first came to this country and I said I was an engineer, it was like I was a nobody."

(Continued on page 21)

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WHY I VOLUNTEER

Mark Borts and Don Swalsky: Making a residence a Jewish home

By Estelle Melzer

Although they play very different roles at Tamir Foundation, volunteers Mark Borts and Don Swalsky have a common goal - helping to create a distinctly Jewish home for the 32 men and women with a developmental disability who live within the organization.

"Government funding provides only our most basic needs," explains Executive Director Mark Palmer. "Volunteers make all the difference in the quality of life we can offer our residents."

As chair of the Fundraising Committee, Mark Borts is helping to ensure that quality of life.

He joined the Tamir Board three years ago, recruited by his friend, Ron Stein, a former Tamir president. Attempting to explain his involvement, he says simply, "How could I say no."

That willingness has characterized all aspects of his work at Tamir. "He's a real trouper. He'll roll up his sleeves and do any kind of work asked of him," marvels Palmer.

Last year, Borts suggested a new fund-raising concept to the Tamir board - a Golf Marathon. Then he rolled up his sleeves, and with a tremendous investment of time and hard work, made the idea a major success.

Sixteen avid golfers ranging in age from 16 to 60 plus were recruited to play 100 consecutive holes of golf. Each participant was asked to collect a minimum of \$2500 in pledges. By the time they teed off on August 23 at Edelweiss Golf Course, participants had secured pledges of over \$30,000. Most of the players completed their 100 holes of golf in 12 hours - and they're all ready to come back this year for more.

The money raised by the Golf Marathon will go

toward providing a vibrant Jewish life for Tamir residents. It will help with the extra costs of kosher food, Jewish holiday celebrations, and special events such as a third seder and a Chanukah party. Some of the money will help fund Tamir's outreach program to non-residents and its monthly Judaic programming for Jewish residents of Rideau Regional Centre. And some will help send three Tamir residents and accompanying staff on their first trip to Israel next year.

Borts, who is an insurance agent and financial advisor, has also helped Tamir Foundation with various human resources and financial issues.

An Ottawa native, Borts had always been aware of Tamir Foundation as "a good organization doing important work" but would never have approached the board to get involved without his friend's suggestion. Looking back, he is grateful for that invitation.

"There's a lot of personal satisfaction in working with an organization that helps people in such a direct way," he muses. "I've met a lot of great people I wouldn't have met otherwise. And of course, there's that feeling of giving something back to your community." He laughs that his reasons "sound like clichés" but they are real and compelling. He plans to stay on the board, actively committed, for his full six years.

Don Swalsky, whom Palmer jokingly refers to as "our resident rabbi," joined the Tamir Foundation volunteer corps two years ago. He works on the Judaic Committee, helping to make Jewish practice and ritual more accessible to the residents.

His involvement with Tamir was an extension of his own interests and experiences. He and his wife, Lynda, moved to Ottawa from Montreal three years ago. Lynda,



Mark Borts



Don Swalsky

who had worked at Miriam Home, a Montreal organization serving people with developmental disabilities, joined the Tamir staff. Don, a chartered accountant, had been involved with ritual matters in his Montreal synagogue.

In Ottawa, the couple joined Adath Shalom Synagogue and Don, generous with his expertise, quickly gravitated to the dual roles of gabbai and treasurer. It

(Continued on page 20)



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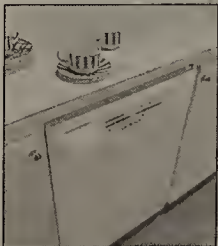
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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Ottawa Post book describes exploits of brave group of men and women

By Diane Koven

Let's not forget, a familiar refrain each November 11, is the watchword throughout the year of the Ottawa Post, Jewish War Veterans of Canada.

Although the local Post was founded only about 10 years ago, with many members even then over the age of 60, there are approximately 120 active veterans involved right now. According to Commander Mel Goldberg, the purpose of the Post is "to keep alive the spirit that was engendered during the war, the strong feeling of Jewish fellowship among the men. The reason the men joined here in Ottawa was out of strong patriotism, to bring the history of the past into the life of the present so we don't forget our heritage, what we fought for and what we hope to retain in our Jewish community."

This year has been particularly momentous for the Ottawa Post. In addition to the usual activities which include an annual banquet with prominent speakers and the presentation of two annual awards to young people who have shown leadership and made contributions to their community, the Post was proud to launch a book entitled *THERE I WAS ... A Collection of Reminiscences by Members of the Ottawa Jewish Community who served in World War II*.

The idea for the book, a collection of first-person stories gathered from local veterans, came from Freda Lithwick who served as a first lieutenant (nursing sister) with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Several others picked up the ball and carried it, notably Cy Torontow, a retired wing commander, the late Elliott Gluck, a Second World War lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Army Ser-

vice Corps; Morrie Konick, an RCAF squadron leader and Mort Baslaw, an RCAF leading aircraftman. Together they produced a volume just short of 100 pages which vividly describes the adventures and misadventures of this brave group of men and women who served our country proudly over half a century ago.

According to Mort Baslaw, artist and art teacher who was responsible for the design and layout of the book, "The second generation after the war has little or no interest in what happened." The stories are one way to bring history to life. Baslaw wants people to understand how many Jewish men and women enlisted to serve their country. "On a per capita basis, the Jewish veterans in Ottawa," he says, "represented more volunteers for army, navy and air force than anywhere in Canada." According to local records, 417 Ottawa Jews served, of whom 52 gave their lives. "Our children and grandchildren are living in peace," says Baslaw, "and that makes it worthwhile."

Each spring, the Ottawa Post holds a dinner for its members and guests. Last year's guest speaker was Jack Granatstein, director and CEO of the Canadian War Museum. Granatstein also wrote the foreword to the book, noting that "this record of the contribution of Ottawa's Jews is thus a part, an important part, of a national story that remains to be told."

The book has been distributed by the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society to all Ottawa synagogues as gifts for presentation to B'nai Mitzvot. It is available in the Soloway JCC Library and is for sale at \$12.00 each by contacting Commander Mel Goldberg (729-2847).



Seven sons of Ottawa rabbi in uniform

Rabbi Max and Bessie Maser had a military-minded family of eight sons and one son-in-law. At the time of this picture, September 11, 1942, five of the boys were on active service, two in the Reserve Army.

(Back row, from left to right): LCpl Allan Maser, Cpl David J. Maser, Cpl Norman Maser; (front row) Sgt C. Hy Maser, Sgt William (Bill) Segal who had recently married Dorothy Maser, Flt Lieut Gordon Maser and Staff Sgt Sam Maser. Pte Dan Maser is absent from the photo as is Ralph Maser who was only 12 at the time. (Photo: Ottawa Evening Journal, courtesy: Ottawa Jewish Archives)

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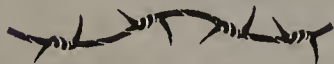
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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Mark Borts and Don Swalsky: Making a residence a Jewish home

(Continued from page 17)

was, he says, "a natural progression" to volunteer his Judaic knowledge for the benefit of Tamir.

He describes his Tamir involvement with great enthusiasm and passion: "Our aim is to help our residents feel Jewishly connected both within their home and within the larger Jewish community."

Educating the mostly non-Jewish staff about Jewish ritual and practice is an important aspect of creating a Jewish environment. Swalsky has run educational sessions for staff on Passover preparation, synagogue ritual and general Jewish practices. "I try to explain the purpose and background of various acts so that staff will not only follow the rules but comprehend why certain things are done," he comments.

The Judaic Committee has also prepared a book for staff on Jewish practices and is in the process of

completing an English-Jewish dictionary, with explanations of common Yiddish and Hebrew phrases — davening, tallit, yalmekah, etc.

It has all helped to create a rich Jewish life for Tamir residents. They enjoy Shabbat dinners, attend services at Adath Shalom and Agudath Israel synagogues, and participate in the preparation and celebration of the full cycle of Jewish holidays. For Purim, they make hamantaschen and exchange mishloach manot. On Passover, Tamir hosts a third seder with over 70 people — residents, family, staff and volunteers — in attendance. "There is a wonderful sense of a large community gathering at our seder," comments Swalsky, who leads part of the service.

"Anyone moving into a new community has to involve himself," he states, when asked why he volunteers. "I'm just happy that Ottawa has been so open to newcomers like

us." He considers Ottawa "a very warm, welcoming community. Here you are not barred or blocked out of any kind of community participation." Through his involvement with Tamir Foundation, Don Swalsky is helping to ensure that our most vulnerable community members are also not barred from full participation in their Jewish community.

"Tamir has been incredibly fortunate in terms of the people who are willing to get involved as volunteers," remarked president Lewis Auerbach. "From personal experience, I know that the giving of volunteers such as Mark and Don is repaid. There's tremendous joy and satisfaction in seeing so many important things happen at Tamir because of one's involvement."

If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities at Tamir Foundation, either at the board level or as a front-line volunteer, call Lisa Giffin (725-3519).

Latest federal budget ... good news

(Continued from page 1)

shares. Hopefully the changes in the budget will encourage even more people to make even greater donations through this mechanism. There are many unmet charitable needs in the Jewish community and those people who have large capital gains from securities now have even more incentive to help us serve worthy Jewish causes."

Foundation President Norman Lesh, who has seen funds opened through the donation of stock, agrees. Lesh says, "This will hopefully encourage even more philanthropically mind-

ed shareholders to open funds or increase the capital in their funds during the Foundation's 25th Anniversary celebration."

The Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation has joined with other community foundations across Canada in calling for a complete elimination of capital gains taxes. Foundation Executive Director Gordon Roston noted that the Foundation supported the submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance Report of November 9, 1999 which recommended eliminating the remaining capital gains tax on gifts of listed secu-

rities. Roston says that "this reduction to 33 per cent is definitely a step in the right direction, but sooner rather than later Canada should provide a complete exemption on capital gains taxes, as has been the case in the United States for many years."

Although the recommendation for the complete elimination of capital gains taxes on donations of stocks to charities was not realized in this year's budget, this further reduction is an encouraging sign that the finance minister recognizes the benefits this would have for Canadian non-for-profits.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Claudine Simson: Working hard at life

(Continued from page 16)

"For instance, if I said in France, 'I am an engineer', they think it's wow! Here, they say, 'On, you're an engineer. God, you don't look like one! You have to look like one? What are you talking about? I was never faced with that over there. Ever.'"

These days, Simson is delivering a company approach to all of the global advance research in telecommunications and communications technology, their application and associated devices, new products, patents and copyrights.

"It's fascinating," she says. "It's a global function, too. I have people everywhere where Nortel has a presence."

And that means that travelling is not an option for Simson, it's essential. She can be away for up to two days a week, ongoing. She tries, however, to be available to her daughters as much as possible, leaving work early to pick them up from school, attending their concerts, taking them to their extra-curricular activities. Melissa, 11, attends Hillel Academy and is studying piano and taking gymnastics. Sylvia, 15, is studying voice, and attends the almost-all boys school, Ashbury. ("Sylvia is following the track of Maman," quips Simson.) If Simson has to be away, she tries not to do it at her daughters' expense.

"Sometimes you feel so much like you can't do as much, at work, as you want or as much, at home, as you want. And you have this constant dilemma. The hardest part is when you have to travel and what

if they need me when I'm not there."

But Simson has that covered, too. If she can't rearrange her travel schedule, she'll resort to photocopying her daughters' homework to take on her business trips, calling the girls in the evenings, from her hotel room, to help them study for exams. She may not be physically with them but she still manages to be there for them. Part of the reason she can do that is because she is upper management in an unusually flexible environment.

"I've reached a stage where I'm relatively high in the company, so that's the other advantage. It's another privilege. My boss is extremely understanding; that's the environment there. It's really something I cherish."

And in her spare time ... But wait, does she have any spare time? The answer is given quickly. No. Simson has no time, really, for herself.

"My best time is when I'm with my family. That's my private time."

Simson and her family attend Agudath Israel regularly and are very active there, joining in various activities and the holiday celebrations. Her daughters are involved in the youth programming while Simson is a member of the board, her term having recently been renewed. The family is also a big supporter of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and was active in the Campus building fund.

"For me, it's important to keep the values and traditions [of Judaism]. It keeps

you going. I love going to Shabbat services. You can really reflect on your week and be with your family."

So what advice does this extraordinarily accomplished woman have to give to young girls?

"The most important thing is to do things they are going to like, not because they were told by their parents or influenced by their friends, [or by] taboos. Like, 'females will never succeed', etc. Forget it! You will be successful if you follow your heart. If you don't love something, you will never be successful."

"The second thing, life is hard work," and here, Simson laughs. "No ifs, ands or buts about it. So get on with life and just work hard."

"The third thing, especially for females, is be yourself. Don't emulate males. Females have special values. They have a place in society. They have a place in the workplace, and we have to capitalize on

that. We have a different way to look at things, we have a different way to do things, especially in management; we have a very different way of managing people. And if you lose that value by trying to emulate the male, you're putting yourself in direct competition with them and most of the time you can't compete with them because you're married and you have kids. So you have to use your intrinsic value to compete with them."

"I have a principle," she adds. "I never ever wear pants. I always wear a business suit. I don't try to be part of the boys club...but to be a valued partner of them."

Claudine Simson is working hard at Life. There are no problems, only solutions may well be the maxim she lives by. Because Life, in many ways, is like a mathematical equation - it's complicated, difficult to solve, but possible to figure out. And, it's always a challenge. And Claudine Simson likes nothing more than that.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Melane Hotz: an accomplished professional and a professional volunteer

By Kinneret Globerman

One thing you can say about Melane Hotz's life is that it hasn't been ordinary. And it hasn't been easy, either. But it has been an education. From South Africa to Canada, from professional careerist to professional volunteer, Hotz has journeyed far, both personally and professionally.

The journey really began in 1961. Hotz's scientist husband, Marcus, took his young wife and child from South Africa to Canada on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. Upon their return to Cape Town a year later, the twenty-something Melane was certain she knew all about being Canadian.

"What struck me was that they had screens on the windows, and coffee klatches were a feature of life."

Yet one year later, her education - in Canada and in life - was to begin in earnest when Melane found herself back in this country. She's been here ever since, forging a life for herself that's been challenging, stimulating and a real learning experience. She's gone from being the executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in Ottawa and director of the Protestant Children's Village Daycare (also Ottawa), and being in charge of all of the daycare for the Region, to becoming the Director of Daycare for the Province of Alberta and then working in child welfare, and finding herself Alberta's Public Guardian.

As a volunteer, she started as a docent at the National Gallery of Canada and is now the chair of the docent program there. She's also involved with Community Care Access, was on the board of Disabled Persons Community Resources and on the boards of other social service organizations, and is now - at this propitious time for the Ottawa Jewish community - the new president of Hillel Lodge. Not to mention that she's also a busy grandmother, a

dog owner and an active golfer and bridge-player, to boot. Whew! Talk about an education!

It was the offer of a job for Marcus that brought Melane and her family to Canada the second, final time. That, and the Sharpeville Riots in Johannesburg, what she calls "a mini-holocaust of non-whites".

"All my boyfriends ended up having to run away from the country or they would have been imprisoned by the regime," she recalls. "Because you know, Jewish academics tend to ally themselves with liberal causes so they blow up a bridge or two and they shake hands with the wrong people."

"We decided that the way things were going in the country under the apartheid government ... if we didn't leave, our children - and at that point we had one and a half - would leave."

So Marcus Hotz resigned from his professorship at the University of Cape Town and he and his family moved to Ottawa. It was 1963. Marcus, a physical scientist, worked for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources while Melane, with her masters of education in psychology and her bachelor of commerce, got a job almost immediately as the executive director of the CMHA.

"I was lucky, I guess, because there weren't that many professional women with degrees out there," says Melane. "I had a wonderful care-giver for the kids for 20 years. Otherwise I wouldn't have been able to do any of this, for sure. She made it possible for all of this to happen."

Because while Melane was busy with her career, she also had three children to worry about. Stephen is now 42 and a practicing psychologist here in Ottawa; Jeremy is almost 38 and is a comedian working in LA who "never went to university, he got on the stage and he stayed there"; and Jessica is 33. The Vancouver resident has a hotel and business administration background



Melane and Marcus Hotz with grandson Alex.

and she is now creating a Kids Vancouver web site with Kids Ottawa to follow. Stephen and Jessica both have children of their own.

Over the course of their years in Canada, Melane and Marcus learned how to be self-sufficient. Their lessons really began with their first physical separation when Marcus accepted a job with NATO. It took him away not only from Ottawa and the country, it took him away to another continent entirely, to Brussels. But because the Hotz children, already in their teens, didn't want to relocate and leave their friends behind, Melane decided to remain in Ottawa, visiting Marcus as often as she could.

"It was lovely! I used to go there and play house in the little neighbourhood stores and sit there and read a French

newspaper. It took me the whole day to read one page."

Their daughter spent one of those three years there with her dad. She was 13 at the time.

"He did the parent thing," chuckles Melane. "He drove Jessica and her friends to their ballet lessons, and their gymnastics. He was a very busy dad!"

Then came separation #2. When the NATO posting ended, Marcus was offered a job in Alberta and this time Melane decided to go with him. Applying for a job as a consultant in early childhood education, she was offered, instead, the job as Director of Daycare for the Province. What seemed fortuitous turned out to be anything but. Melane took the job. Her husband's fell through. Alberta had just

(Continued on page 24)

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ISRAEL

The sunflower seed syndrome is highly contagious

By Miriam Ages Ben-Shalom

There is a certain element of Israeli society that is prone to what is popularly called "The Sunflower-Seed Syndrome." This syndrome is highly contagious. Husbands pass it on to their wives, wives to their children and children re-infect their grandparents who, due to particular dental processes, were forcibly (albeit temporarily), cured of the affliction.

The syndrome shows no class or ethnic distinction. It affects the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong, the employed and the unemployed, the coward and the fearless. About the only persons immune are the toothless.

Although they come in all shapes and sizes - some garbed in the flowing lines of the East, some in the latest styles of the West - most are typically outfitted à la Israel: short-sleeved, open-neck-shirted, sockless sandalled and carrying the perennial status symbol: the briefcase.

Addicts are easily recognizable by the sneaky look in their eyes as their unoccupied hand disappears from view, reappears a moment later and is quickly aimed towards the mouth. The hand then comes away, with thumb and forefinger clutching the tell-tale sign of the devotee: a sunflower-seed shell intact. But why is he throwing it away? Closer examination reveals the man's dexterity: the shell is empty!

Now Israel is famous for the many things it possesses such as biblical sites, historic sites, panoramic sites and tourist sites. But it is just as infamous for what

it lacks, such as the sight of waste containers placed in strategic spots. In reality, a member of the SSS (Sunflower-Seed Syndrome), has little choice in the matter of what to do with the empty shell. He looks around for a receptacle in which to hide the evidence of his malady, to no avail. He could put it back from whence it came - the little 50-gram brown paper bag in his pocket - but imagine his frustration after a while, digging for a seed and coming up with another empty shell! No, that wouldn't do; the Israeli's frustrations are plentiful enough, no need to add to his horror. And so he has no choice but to hurl them let the shells fall where they may.

One consolation to this Canadian-born Israeli is that on a certain street at a certain time of the year, sunflower seeds abound in such splendid disarray that I pick up my Sabra grandchildren and away we go to tread that street which reminds me, as we walk, of the sounds of footsteps on crunchy snow on a cold winter's day in Ottawa. In the fall, street-cleaners become fed up and sweep piles of shells on a nearby thoroughfare and, at first piling, we don our oldest and sloppiest jeans and pretend we're jumping on piles of leaves. Our pretending sadly ends when we realize we cannot set fire to these "leaves" for if we did, the smoke signals might mistakenly attract thousands of SSS members with the aroma of a sunflower-seed-orgy-in-progress.

I previously mentioned the Israeli status symbol, the briefcase. No exaggeration. Just walk down any street in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv,


Haifa, Ashdod or Metulla between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm and you'll see every Ron, Shmulik and Dani toting one. I decided to conduct my own Gallup Poll to see just what the average CBC (Carrier of a Briefcase) carried inside.

There were some, of course, who carried bona fide working papers. There were more though, who carried only their lunch wrapped in the previous day's edition of their newspaper. But guess what the majority (like 9 out of 10) carried? Right. Sunflower seeds!

I chose my victim, a tall, distinguished-looking, grey-haired gentleman of about 55, and proceeded to follow him as he boarded a bus, briefcase in one hand, newspaper in the other. He sat down, I sat opposite him, a row behind. He settled his status symbol carefully on his lap, latches facing his stomach and unfolded the newspaper with two hands. Then he re-folded the paper in such a way that it could be held with one hand, the left. The right hand reached slowly downward to the briefcase and with silent, deliberate manoeuvring, it was open, revealing a reinforced strawberry-box filled with ... you guessed it, sunflower seeds!

The inside of the briefcase was lined with newspapers curled up at the corners so that no salt would come into contact with the lining. And as I watched from the reclining position I had to take to get a peek inside the case, I saw his fingers deftly crawl into the narrow opening and retreat, a sunflower seed twist thumb and forefinger, swiftly raised towards the hared teeth ...

(Continued on page 25)



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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Melane Hotz: an accomplished professional

(Continued from page 22)

plunged into a recession and there were no other job opportunities available. So Marcus had to take whatever he could. And those jobs took him away from Alberta to Toronto and then subsequently to Ottawa.

"We'd been through this once before, but in the other direction," says Melane. "We were certainly not the prototype yuppie two high-income family, because one income went completely to the airlines and to Bell Telephone!"

While her husband was employed elsewhere, Melane focussed on her job in Alberta. Following the daycare position, she went into child welfare three years later and finally, to her job as Public Guardian of Alberta.

"I learned how to be independent, how to do things for myself and also care for others and be out of the traditional mold. When we lived in South Africa, we were one of these young Jewish couples. And you moved around in a pack of couples and it was a very conventional kind of a life and you didn't know too much about what went on outside and you didn't care too much about what went on. You didn't have a social conscience, you didn't make contributions."

"So living here [in Canada] and working in the social services field and then going to live on my own taught me a lot."

The Public Guardian position was an advocacy job intended first for younger developmentally handicapped or disabled adults. The big case-load turned out, surprisingly, to be the elderly cognitive impaired. Hotz had 3,000 people under her guardianship with 100 staffers to assist her. She had to make decisions that would affect elderly people's lives and the quality of their lives; deciding on competency, consent to treatment, validity of wills, a hodgepodge of ethical issues she'd never really had to consider before.

Once that job ended, and eight years after first coming to the province, Melane left. She took an early retirement with full pension and moved back to Ottawa where her husband was working. Not one to keep still, she got involved with the National Gallery almost immediately. Her friend, Gloria Goldberg, had advised her that "when you retire, don't go and volunteer in the field you worked in; do something different". Well, there was nothing more different than being a docent. But that was not enough for Melane. So, despite the advice from Goldberg, Melane listened to another friend's suggestion, Elaine Singer told her to go help out at Hillel Lodge. Melane began her volunteering there in 1992 with an exercise class. Later on, she was asked to join the board.

"And I moved along and up, I guess, never expecting to

find myself president at this historical turnaround time. We have a wonderful board; they work so hard, they're so committed."

Hotz also admires Stephen Schneiderman's tenacity at getting the new lodge built. It's taken the executive director 15 tough years to finally see the realization of a dream.

"I came in last June and have a two-year term so by just the luck of the draw I'll end up being president when we open up the new lodge. This is certainly not an honour that I deserve. I don't have as long a history working for Jewish community organizations as [do] many of the people on the board and many others in this community. I came late into the game [and] it's been very nice to have the background in the field even though as a board person, you don't interfere with the professional service being provided, [but] it helps you to understand some of the issues that the staff face and to be able to advocate from perhaps a little more credible base."

Melane has seen the evolution of an idea turn into concrete, literally. And although the move is on, so to speak, the logistical problems are just beginning. The trick will be to move the Wartenburg Street residents over to the new lodge with the least amount of disruption and then to phase others in. That, she estimates, will take a couple of months in itself. But the upside is that the waiting list will be reduced because the new lodge will offer 50 more places.

When she's not volunteering as president of Hillel Lodge, Melane is working with the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). All three volunteer jobs - docent, president, CCAC volunteer - offer something different to this very busy lady.

"Just as well," she says. "Otherwise I'd be a nuisance. If I was just involved with one, I'd probably ride too hard. This way I can spread it around."

Does she have a favourite volunteer job?

"I have to tell you, I'm very glad that I'm able to make my contribution at the lodge now because in my background, growing up, I think because my father was the only Jewish principal in a completely Christian environment in Cape Town, there was never any encouragement to become involved in Jewish activities, to go to shul."

Melane says her father felt he had to hide his Jewishness, being employed, as he was, in a totally non-Jewish milieu. Not that there were no Jews in Cape Town. On the contrary, it had three synagogues and a very active community; the biggest givers to UJA in the world, she says. Her husband came from a more traditional background. Perhaps to compensate, the Hotz children all attended Hillel Academy, but Melane had not much time to devote to Jewish causes while she was building her career.

"Now, I'm making my contribution in the services sector rather than in synagogue-related activities because I don't have that much to contribute."

The Hotzes are members at Agudath Israel. Melane was on the board for a while and helped develop the third service for the High Holy Days. Both Hotzes also belong to a Tanach group that meets every Friday night.

Melane is enjoying this time in her life. She is still learning but these days it's on her own time and on her own terms.

"I think I enjoy what I'm doing now most because I don't have to answer to anybody the way you do when you're employed. On the other hand, it's pretty stressful because I live and work in a number of different fields so I have to keep my head in gear in these different environments."

"This is a good time because, except for our dog, there's nothing that requires fairly regular attention."

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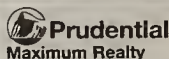
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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Adath Israel Outremont alumni plan September reunion

(Continued from page 10)

facing similar circumstances.

That merger resulted in the creation of the Hebrew Academy, which continues to offer a full Hebrew day school education in Montreal today.

Chair Thelma Cohen (1956) and committee member Morty Wellen (1952) have launched a massive mail campaign to all graduates at their last known address. "As you can imagine, the task of locating every graduate is challenging, to say the least" said Wellen who is using his architectural office as a focal point for contact with graduates.

The sunflower seed syndrome is highly contagious

(Continued from page 23)

snap, crackle, pop. Fingers down, into the briefcase with shell, shell deposited on floor of briefcase, fingers re-emerge with another seed aimed towards mouth, all in one smooth movement. The process was repeated until the bus arrived at his station and he alit.

Israel's bars are called Five O'Clocks. Whereas in the US and Canada, pretzels and other salted delicacies are served free of charge to whet the drinker's appetite, here the sunflower seed is king. When company drops in for tea in the afternoon, the hostess invariably sets out a bowl of "something to nosh on till tea is ready" ... a bowl of sunflower seeds. The expectant father paces the corridors of the maternity ward furiously teething one sunflower seed after another. (Hospital administrators have wisely placed receptacles every few yards along these corridors.)

When there's a minor traffic accident, the Yossi-on-the-spot member of SSS offers the parties (99 out of 100 also fellow-members), that which the Israeli St. Bernard totes-not whisky, but a vast amount of those little seeds. And with their first crinch, crunch, crunch, the par-

ties shake hands and are revived enough to ask for more.

When we lived in Canada, my husband, a transplanted Israeli, used to bring home a 25 cent, eight ounce, cellophane bag of what he called "shemeskes" (the Yiddish term for sunflower seeds). The bag was a quarter empty by the time he arrived home.

Unknowingly, he was a candidate for SSS membership, for he could drive the car and appease his craving at the same time. He'd plant himself on the sofa and pour the remaining seeds into the candy dish on the coffee table. Taking *The Jerusalem Post* in one hand and the contents of the candy dish in the other, he'd read and munch. When the crinch, crunch, crunch stopped, I asked if he'd finished with the newspaper. He said no, he'd finished with the seeds and somehow couldn't concentrate on what he was reading while his thumb and forefinger were idle. I finally cured my husband by pointing out that he was the only person in the entire, predominantly Anglo-Saxon city so affected, and since a candidate for the SSS cannot survive alone, he gave it up.

Upon returning to Israel, can

Several hundred responses have been gathered in the first few weeks, but the most difficult job is to reach those whose families are no longer in Montreal.

"We know of graduates in just about every major North American community as well as overseas, including Israel ... we hope to reach each and everyone," says Cohen.

Graduates of Adath Israel Schools of Outremont are asked to contact Morty Wellen at 4846 Sherbrooke Street West, #102, Montreal, H3Z 1G8, by e-mail (mfwellen@qc.aibn.com) or by telephone (514-485-3003) or Thelma Cohen by telephone or fax (514-336-5457).

you imagine my horror when my mate immediately sought out the local chapter of the aficionados and paid his dues for the next three years! And what may you ask, could the dues possibly be? What else but one kilo of sunflower seeds per year to be used at the monthly meetings!

One night we went to visit some new immigrants from Curacao. As the evening wore on, I noticed my husband becoming restless. I feared the worst. I patted his hand and smiled encouragingly. I offered him a hard candy. He refused. When I glanced at him again, he was reaching into his pocket and emerged with the inevitable - the 50 gram brown paper bag. I cringed with embarrassment as he offered the bag to me. I took one keeping it in my hand and almost fainted when he offered the bag to our guests.

"No thanks," said our hostess. "We have our own." And she left the room, returning a moment later with two, bulging 500 gram brown paper bags and passed one to her husband. I heard these unbelievable words coming from his mouth: "So our Dutch treat is known in Israel too. So glad to know it."

I choked on my first sunflower seed!



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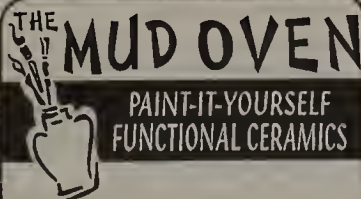
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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

The Mother Dance: How children change your life

The Mother Dance: How Children Change Your Life is the theme of a program sponsored by the Ottawa Chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (CFHU) of Jerusalem to be held on May 15 at 8:00 pm at Machzikei Hadas Congregation. The evening's highlight will be a special lecture given by internationally acclaimed psychologist, Dr. Harriet Lerner.

Chevra Kadisha makes generous pledge to Campus

(Continued from page 1)

so generously into their private organizational funds to help us get ever closer to our final goal."

The Ottawa Chevra Kadisha, the Ritual Burial Society, began as a loosely formed group of men and women who, in their adopted new country, continued the ritual burial rites practised in the European countries from which they came. A totally self-supporting entity, it is funded through contributions made by families who have suffered a bereavement. The Chevra Kadisha pays its expenses from those contributions and invests the remainder until it is required for future disbursement.

"The purchase of the new Cuba Avenue Chapel was realized through the sale of the King Edward Street Chapel and some of those investments," Ages explained. "We are able to do our job much better in these modern surroundings."

The Ottawa Chevra Kadisha uses the contributions it receives to cover operating expenses, custodial work, snow removal and upkeep of the facility.

"The Ottawa Chevra Kadisha is very proud of what is being accomplished in the Ottawa Jewish Community and happy that we were able to find a way of donating to the Capital Campaign without compromising our own financial position," Ages said.

Lerner, a renowned expert on the psychology of women, and family relationships, will discuss the relationship between mothers and their children.

Armed with personal tales and vivid case studies that run the gamut from the hilarious to the heart-wrenching, Lerner will spell out what happens to a woman - and her partner - when two become three ... and four.

Given the enormous impact of her previous work, which includes the trilogy *The Dance of Anger*, *The Dance of Intimacy* and *The Dance of Deception*, which has sold more than three million copies, this presentation of her most recent book, *The Mother Dance*, is certain to be of great interest.

Funds raised from this event will be directed to the Lafer Centre for Women's Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Lafer Centre plays an



Dr. Harriet Lerner

important role in developing critical thinking, openness to new ideas and respect for cultural differences. The university has been responsible for academic research integral to social change.

Marcia Cantor, president of the Ottawa Chapter of CFHU, along with event co-chair Ellen Fathi, invite patron ticket holders to enjoy dinner with Lerner as well as the mistress of ceremonies for the evening, well-known Ottawa lawyer Debbie Weinstein.

Patron tickets are \$125.00 of which the donation portion is tax deductible. Reserved seating is included with this ticket. Tickets for the lecture and

dessert reception are only \$20.00.

For tickets or additional information, call the CFHU office (228-2243).



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Engaged!

Jane Mirsky and Sheldon Ehrenworth are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica to Ian Schweg. Ian is the son of Mel and Arlene Schweg and the grandson of Dora and the late Hyman Wasserman and Rae and the late Max Schweg. Jessica is the granddaughter of Mervin and Barbara Mirsky and Rose and the late Ben Ehrenworth.

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City of Ottawa

Information

1999-2000 ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In the spirit of marking 2000 as a special millennial year in Ottawa's history, the City of Ottawa is looking forward to making this year's Environmental Achievement Awards

the best yet, both as a standard setter for recognizing community action and caring about the environment in future years.

As such, the search is on for outstanding examples of environmental leadership in Ottawa. The Awards, which serve as a showcase for Ottawa and as an opportunity to promote community environmental responsibility, are presented to winners in four categories: Individual, Community Groups, Business, and Institutions. Nomination forms for the 1999-2000 Environmental Achievement Awards are available at all City of Ottawa community facilities, pools, fire halls, libraries and the Client Service Centre at City Hall.

Nominations close at midnight on Friday, April 21, 2000.

Info: Onno Gaanderse, 244-5300, ext. 3364; e-mail: gaanderse@city.ottawa.on.ca

PRIX D'EXCELLENCE ENVIRONNEMENTALE DE 1999-2000

En vue de souligner l'an 2000 en tant qu'année millénaire spéciale dans l'histoire d'Ottawa, la Ville d'Ottawa tient à s'assurer que le programme des Prix d'excellence environnementale soit meilleur que jamais et serve à établir les critères de base en ce qui concerne la reconnaissance de l'action communautaire et la protection de l'environnement à l'avenir.

On cherche donc des exemples vraiment exceptionnels de leadership environnemental à Ottawa. Les Prix d'excellence environnementale, qui servent à mettre en valeur la Ville d'Ottawa et à promouvoir la responsabilité communautaire sur le plan environnemental, sont présentés dans quatre catégories : particuliers, groupes communautaires, entreprises et institutions. Des formulaires de mise en candidature sont offertes à toutes les installations communautaires, aux piscines, aux casernes de pompiers et aux bibliothèques de la Ville d'Ottawa ainsi qu'au Centre du service à la clientèle de l'Hôtel de Ville. La période de mise en candidature se termine à minuit le vendredi 21 avril 2000.

Renseignements: Onno Gaanderse, 244-5300, poste 3364, courriel: gaanderse@city.ottawa.on.ca

TELEPHONE INFORMATION LINE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The City of Ottawa has a new telephone information line for persons who are visually impaired. The line provides details about City programs, services and special events and is updated on a weekly basis. It contains information that is not already covered in the City's existing information lines - notably taxes and assessment and Council and Committees agendas - and mirrors the contents of the Friday City Page in the local daily newspapers.

CALL 244-5450, SELECT "ENGLISH" OR "FRENCH", THEN PRESS 5.

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- ✓ Allotment gardens - grow your own vegetables or flowers.
- ✓ Active living canoeing, hiking and cycling for 50+ - take part in this and more.
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Spring Cleaning the Capital 2000

The annual Spring Cleaning the Capital campaign from April 14 - May 14 encourages residents to help keep Ottawa clean and green by conducting clean-up projects on their own property or somewhere in their community. Tell us about your clean-up project! We'll register your group and give you helpful hints and clean-up supplies (while quantities last).

Registered participants who return their clean-up reports before May 31 are eligible to win one of several prizes donated by our sponsors.

To register, call 244-5444 or visit our web site.



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La campagne de Grand ménage du printemps de la capitale, du 14 avril au 14 mai, encourage les citoyens d'Ottawa à garder leur ville propre et verte en nettoyant leur propriété ou en contribuant à nettoyer d'autres endroits de la ville. Dites-nous quel est votre projet de nettoyage! Nous inscrirons votre groupe, nous vous donnerons des conseils et nous vous fournirons des produits de nettoyage, tant qu'il nous en restera.

Les participants inscrits qui nous retourneront leur rapport de nettoyage d'ici au 31 mai seront admissibles au tirage d'un des nombreux prix offerts par nos commanditaires.

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FEATURE

Birthright Israel

When we returned to Zion we were like dreamers

(Continued from page 12)

about Israel and our Jewish heritage. Any personal or religious changes as a result of this trip were acquired solely from exposure to Israel's rich and vibrant culture.

The course of our trip allowed us to experience two very different forms of bringing in Shabbat in Israel. The beginning of the trip took us to the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, where we took part in a more religious and traditional style Shabbat ceremony. It was amazing to witness the entire city shut down in preparation for Friday evening. For each of us the Western Wall experience had a unique and personal effect. As we stood at the Wall, the moon shone brightly in the Jerusalem night sky, casting a shadow on the incredible scene which unravelled before us. We watched as Jewish people, both religious and not so religious, came to pray and leave prayers. Spending Shabbat at the Western Wall was an experience I will not soon forget.

When the trip was nearing its end, we celebrated Shabbat in Tel Aviv in a very different, yet equally moving manner. As we stood on the beach, united by our week's experiences, and connected by bonds which we knew would not easily be broken, we performed a Shabbat service of our own. As the sun set into the Mediterranean Sea, creating a most beautiful display of colour across the night's sky, the sound of voices chanting Hebrew songs echoed in the night air. Every Friday night, no matter where I am in the world, I will remember with great warmth and emotion the Shabbat services that I was part of in the land of Israel.

An aspect of our trip that left many of us with an abundance of questions and thoughts were the encounters and friendships we made with young Israelis. The time we spent with Israeli teens, most of whom were about to begin their army service, caused many of us to re-examine the concerns and issues in our own lives.



On the road (front from left to right) ... Ottawans Hailey Eisen, Tara Cutler, Robyn Parnes, Danny Solman; (back) Justin Shulman, Adam Slipacoff, Simon Reynolds (Brock University) and Danny Floh Back.

Meeting Israelis and talking with them opened our eyes to a culture which differed in so many ways from our own. Although we were all Jews and of similar age, our lives were more different than any of us could ever have imagined. In two weeks, the boys whom we met, would be going into the army for three years of mandatory military service, while the girls would be serving 18 months. These young Israelis would be risking their lives for their country. This was a concept which many of us had trouble relating to. We had all seen news reports of Israeli turmoil, and of soldiers' deaths, but these occurrences suddenly became more personal and real. We now saw that what to us in Canada was simply a news story was the reality of every day life to these young Israelis. And so, we were left wondering how the issues which we thought were of such great significance to us compared to those which our new friends must face each and every day of their lives.

If it was understanding you were seeking, or knowledge, or passion, or love, this trip to Israel definitely invoked them all. I returned from Israel in a cloud of questions, juxtaposed with a new understanding of my heritage and religion. I hope that in years to come I will find answers to all of my questions and apply my new understanding to my life as a Jew.

The beauty of Israel was completely overwhelming. From the rolling mountains, to the vast open desert, from the stillness of the Dead Sea, to the crash of waves in the Mediterranean, Israel's magnificent beauty left me breathless time and again. Every new experience provided me with a key to unlock more of the country's incredible secrets. Each time our group stood on a different stretch of land, and observed Israel from a different perspective, we learned how, in these very same places, the lives of our ancestors had played out. We learned of battles fought, lives lost, and the victories

that had been achieved on the very same soil upon which we stood. As visitors in Israel we were not merely tourists, we were an intricate part of a vast history that we were not only learning about but, more importantly, creating.

When we came home to Zion we were in fact like dreamers. Throughout this trip, our Birthright Israel mission, we attempted to absorb all the riches of this land where our roots stretched back generation upon generation. We were welcomed with open arms and open hearts and were embraced by the ideas, values, culture, and national pride of those who welcomed us.

Our voyage came to an end before anyone was ready to leave. A trip that had once been a dream had become a reality and then all too quickly, just a memory. But the memory of Israel, of 10 days of magic, experience, friendship, adventure, and understanding, would burn as an eternal flame, forever in our hearts.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Ottawa natives represent Canada in Washington, DC

Canadian history was made recently in Washington, DC, when Rafi Aaron's travelling exhibit and book *A Seed In The Pocket Of Their Blood*, were launched in the United States at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum.

The event marked the first time a Canadian exhibit had been displayed in the Museum and the organizers sought out a Canadian voice to give the opening remarks. They turned to Ottawa's Moishe Smith, a senior vice-president of B'nai B'rith International and a former president of B'nai B'rith Canada, to handle the task. When Aaron, an Ottawa native, was informed of this, he contacted Smith and they chuckled about two guys from Ottawa going to Washington. At the last moment Smith could not attend due to family reasons. The job was given to Les Aaron, a vice-president of Metro-Toronto Lodge and Rafi's younger brother.

The evening was co-hosted by the Museum and the Canadian Embassy in Washington as part of Rafi Aaron's book tour in the United States, which is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Canada.

The program was opened by Richard D. Heideman, the president of B'nai B'rith International, who thanked Aaron for "loaning us your talent".

Louise Blais, cultural attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, followed, stating, "The Embassy is so pleased to be associated with the exhibit and the organization [of B'nai B'rith]."

Les Aaron then spoke of his pride for his brother Rafi, who is the poet and curator of *A Seed In The Pocket Of Their Blood*, and the overwhelming positive response the exhibit has received from both critics and the viewing public.

The exhibit, which has been seen by over one million people in

Canada and Israel, combines Aaron's poems with photographs to address Jewish and universal themes of oppression and triumph, struggle and the search for peace. Among the participants are *Time Magazine* photographer David Rubinger and renowned Montreal photographer Serge Clement.

B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum Curator Elizabeth Kessin Berman calls *A Seed In The Pocket Of Their Blood* an "excellent dialogue with spiritual and political issues facing Jews around the world. Mr. Aaron has given eloquent setting to emotional challenges that Jews confront as we enter the 21st Century".

The exhibit will run through the end of June 2000. The Museum is open to the public, free of charge, Sundays through Thursdays, 10 am to 5 pm. It is located in the B'nai B'rith International headquarters, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. For more information call (202) 857-6583.



(From left to right) Rafi Aaron, poet and curator of the exhibit *A Seed In The Pocket Of Their Blood*; Richard D. Heideman, president of B'nai B'rith International; and Les Aaron, vice-president, Metro-Toronto Lodge of B'nai B'rith Canada at the opening of the exhibit at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington DC. To date over one million people in Canada, Israel and the United States have seen the exhibit which combines poetry and photography to explore issues of Jewish identity.

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Correction

In a *Bulletin* article (March 6, 2000) about the Walkathon, it was incorrectly stated by UJA that the Tikvah Poverty Assistance Fund assists families whose monthly income is less than \$800. The Tikvah Poverty Assistance Fund assists any individuals or families who are experiencing financial hardship or who are in financial crisis.

This information has also been printed on some promotional material for the Walkathon and UJA regrets this error.

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BOOK REVIEW

How can Orthodox Jews relate towards the non Orthodox?

Must A Jew Believe Everything?

By Menachem Kellner.
Littman.
5804 N.E. Hassalo St.
Portland, Oregon 97213-3644

Reviewed by Arnold Ages

One of the most disturbing trends in modern Jewish life is the great divide that now threatens the religious equilibrium of the Jewish world. Orthodox, Conservative and Reform constituencies seem to be expanding, in terms of their differences, at the Hubble rate as intra Jewish politics becomes more and more acerbic. The fact that one of those groups exercises significant political control in the State of Israel makes the situation even more complicated.

Menachem Kellner, the Wolfson professor of Jewish Religious Thought at Haifa University, deplores this disquieting development in Jewish life and in his current essay, he develops an original, if slightly flawed, analysis of the problem and how it should be addressed. Kellner approaches his subject with his self-declared commitment to Orthodox Judaism. It is a commitment grounded in intimate knowledge of classical Jewish texts from the Torah through the Talmud through medieval and modern Jewish philosophy.

In his felicitous approach to a subject which can engender great skittishness, Kellner is polite and respectful towards those he criticizes as he ranges across an intellectual inquiry that is not merely important in a philosophical sense but in a practical one as well.

The major question which Kellner poses is how Orthodox Jews can relate purposefully towards non Orthodox ones.

Before answering his question, Kellner, in a surprising historical aperçu (at least for this reviewer) traces the problem to the great Maimonides. Kellner's thesis is disarmingly simple: under the influence of Aristotelian and Islamic philosophy Mai-

monides changed the texture of what we call historical Judaism by transforming a Halakhically oriented way of life into a theological one.

In reviewing Maimonides' thirteen principles of faith Kellner shows that the philosopher was inevitably led into a theological straitjacket in which compulsory beliefs about the divine nature, resurrection, Messiah and creation, among other doctrines - were declared to be the litmus test of authentic Jewish faith. People who rejected those cardinal principles were declared to be heretics and Judaism prescribes expulsion for such people.

In discussing Maimonides' role in creating the narrow corridor of what passes for much of Orthodoxy today, Kellner solves a problem that has puzzled readers of Maimonides over the centuries. Why did this greatest of thinkers not provide sources for many of the positions which form part of his intellectual legal fortress. Kellner says that Maimonides was often quoting Greek and other gentile authorities and was reluctant to open himself up to criticisms that he had incorporated the views of non Jewish philosophers into his system.

Be that as it may, Maimonides has enjoyed a position of sanctity for nine centuries in Jewish life and has been adopted by the most strident representatives of Orthodoxy as the guide not only for the perplexed but for providing definitions of who and what is an authentic Jew. In the conversion of Maimonides from philosopher and Halakhist to a modern incarnation of heresy hunter, Kellner believes the Orthodox have done a great disservice to the cause of Judaism.

In his survey of the Torah, Kellner makes the observations that the word faith itself does not carry the heavy theological load normally associated with that word in English. Emuna, the word in question, resonates more with the idea of trust than with theological commitment to an abstract idea or article of belief. Once Maimonides got a hold of this word, however, it

underwent a process of religious alchemy and became the signpost for correct theological belief. In the Torah and Talmud, however, Kellner notes that correct behaviour is always placed ahead of theological subtleties. Moreover, says Kellner, Judaism, in its historical contact with other religious systems, eschewed setting up its own dogmatics because it recognized that Judaism was intrinsically behaviour oriented rather than thought oriented.

To be fair to Kellner, he does not deny that Jewish sources stress certain ideas and beliefs, but before Maimonides they were, he argues, never codified in a systematic theological structure. Much damage has resulted from Maimonides' theological formulations because acceptance of the logic of his system requires Jews to deem as heretical those who do not subscribe to Maimonides' affirmations. This is all the more ironic, argues Kellner, because while he was alive, Maimonides was severely criticized by many in the rabbinical establishment, including the great Abraham of Posquieres, who openly ridiculed Maimonides' refusal of the Olam Haba - the world to come - to those who denied the incorporeality of God. "Greater minds than his", said Abraham of Posquieres, "addressed God in direct corporeal terms."

One of Kellner's marvellous linguistic brush strokes comes in his remarks on the rigidity of Maimonides' categories and the great philosopher's refusal to recognize human frailties and errors in the religious life. To illustrate this criticism, Kellner cites the story of Bialik and two yeshiva bochrim that were caught smoking on Shabbat. One said: "I forgot one must not smoke on Shabbat." A second said: "I forgot it was Shabbat." But Bialik said: "I forgot to close the curtain." The first two were using the argument of shegaga - a mistake. Bialik's excuse was tinged with malice. For Kellner, Maimonides confuses these two categories - and the result is a narrowing of the Judaic optical nerve leading to modern myopia, especially among

the Orthodox community that honours Maimonides.

In performing his diagnosis of Orthodoxy's wrongful attitude towards the unobservant and those who express their Judaism through Conservative and Reform modes, Kellner finds that his group has turned theology into Halakha and has thus made "a category mistake." Kellner muddies the waters a bit when he argues that using Maimonides for their imprimatur is wrong on two counts: first it is only the "shell" of Maimonides' ideas that is being invoked without his philosophical underpinning and, second, Maimonides himself was inconsistent "in the way he applied his principles."

What is Kellner's prescription to heal the ever growing rift between Orthodoxy and other expressions of Jewish thought? Kellner is no advocate of that much overused word tolerance. He does not accept the view that all viewpoints are of equal value in the House of Israel.

Kellner's solution is to return to a Halakic approach to Jewish life in which behaviour and not correct belief is the test of Jewish identity. In Jewish law errors are possible and need not lead to ejection from the community. In a Halakic world heresy hunting disappears. It is better to ask how many mitzvahs a person performs than how many of Maimonides' beliefs one subscribes to.

Kellner's solution is full of common sense and good will but it ultimately breaks down because it merely replaces the theological test with the Halakic one. The Orthodoxy which Kellner cherishes cannot, among its most vigorous advocates, abide those who interpret Halakha differently or reject it outright. In the final analysis Kellner's "solution," however bravely put forward, falters in the face of what Hebrew terms as "bedikat tzitzitot," - checking the fringes to make sure they are Halakically correct.

Professor Arnold Ages can be reached at sages@interlog.com

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ART WORKS

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Canvas of war: Masterpieces from the Canadian War Museum

Seventy-two works, some of which have been in storage for 80 years, have been made accessible to us in the current exhibition, *Canvas of War*, at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Some are oversized, some are small, but all are a powerful testimony to the Canadian war experience.

There are paintings by Aba Bayefsky, Moe Reinblatt, Alex Colville, Charles Comfort, Molly Lamb Bobak, four members of the Group of Seven and many others who recorded the human condition in time of war. This exhibition also includes three large sculptures created by Walter Allward as maquettes for the famous Vimy Memorial in France.

The origins of Canada's war art collections can be traced to the leadership of Lord Beaverbrook, a Canadian-born entrepreneur, newspaper magnate and later British cabinet minister. During the First World War, he established the Canadian War Memorials Fund, through which many prestigious artists depicted Canada's contribution to the war effort overseas and at home.

The Canadian War Memorials Fund led to the founding of the Canadian War Records program during the Second World War. Thirty-one painters were hired to depict the activities of Canada's army, navy and air force in wartime Canada and the nation's military achievements in Italy and Northwest Europe. (See two photographs.)

I was invited to the official opening of this remarkable exhibition. Hundreds were crowded into the Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization to hear about the struggle to find an appropriate home to store and display this important part of our Canadian heritage. Too many times, reiterated each speaker, plans for a suitable War Museum have been aborted, making the more than 13,000 works of art inaccessible to the Canadian public. We were left wondering if a facility would ever be built.

Next on the agenda was the viewing of the 72 masterpieces from the Canadian War Museum, including the Vimy Memorial Sculptures and artifacts from the First and Second World Wars. Moved by visual images of raw emotion, I left the exhibition space wondering why such a vibrant and stirring depiction of Canada's participation in a world event of such gigantic proportions had been, and was still, hidden from public view.

The evening ended with the screening of the film *Canvas of War*, and I soon realized that most of the viewing audience were war artists and/or their families who had come for the opening. The theatre is an intimate size and the artists' comments were spontaneous and easily heard. The result was that at the same time as I was watching the artists give personal accounts of their experiences on video, I was listening to their live reactions in the theatre of the Museum of Civilization - the echo was compelling.

In the film I saw Molly Lamb Bobak's lively and humorous illustrations in her diary of the time she spent in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (1942-1945), and learned of Aba Bayefsky standing in as best man at the marriage of Molly and Bruno Bobak in 1946 in Toronto. But there was also the dark side of war, seen in Charles Goldheimer's sensitive drawings of burn patients. I left that night knowing that a proper museum setting for this vital record of Canadian history had to be found.

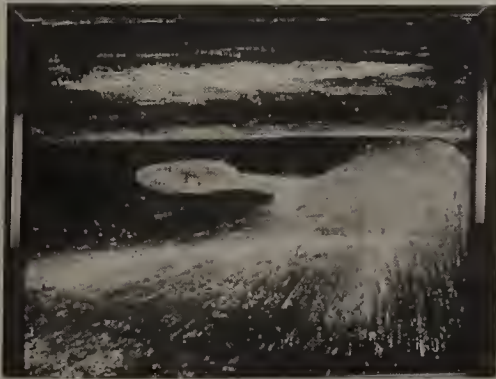
Both the film and the exhibition are

on view until January 7, 2001, after which it will be embarking on a national tour. This will be a popular exhibition and predictably will be as busy near the closing as it was at the opening. So plan your visit long before January, 2001, and allow yourself quality time for looking.

Running concurrently until June 4, 2000, is an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada called *The Great War at Home and Abroad*. It features one large work by each of the following artists: David Bomberg, Harold Gilman, Wyndham Lewis, William Roberts and Edward Wadsworth - five of the most modern British paintings in 1919.



Moe Reinblatt (1917-1979), *Dismantling Bent Props*, 1945: Many men and women worked in repair depots in Canada, such as this one in New Brunswick.



Aba Bayefsky (1923-), *Perimeter Track and Dispersal at Sundown*, 1945: The dark colours in this painting reflect both the time of day and the knowledge that losses are inevitable. Not all the aircraft will return from their night missions over enemy territory.

(Photographs courtesy of the Canadian War Museum)



SIXTY SOMETHING

RUTH WEITZ

The Art Fair

The annual Las Olas Art Fair takes place every January and February in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This year, the 12th annual festival stretched for 12 blocks of the wide boulevard that is home to fabulously expensive clothes and furniture shops.

This trendy fair is a popular place for art lovers to view the works of 300 artists who display their creations each under their own tent. It began with just 12 street-side artists and is now rated one of the top art fairs in the United States.

Unlike an art museum or art gallery, you get a chance to meet the artists. Most are willing to answer questions and discuss how they work.

When we reached our destination, we drove around for at least 15 minutes looking for a place to park. It was only half an hour after the opening but we could not find an empty spot. And that included indoor garages that you pay for besides street parking. Eventually, we saw a car driving out of a parking spot.

We slowly began to stroll through the crowds of people. We enjoyed viewing all the styles from Batik paintings by an Israeli artist, now living in California, to sculptures standing as high as four feet, to jewellery to paintings in various media, stained glassware, air-brushed pottery, hanging mobiles and much more.

Some of the pottery was very imaginative and I liked it all. However, I would have to search my two residences for someplace to put it. Nowhere do I have room for more art. If I lived in a big house I would have bought the six-foot properly attired butler. He stood with a silver tray in one hand for guests to place their cards. There were several cards already in the tray. I touched his "skin" which certainly felt real. One piece of sculpture was a woman on her hands and knees, pail at her side and a scrub brush in one hand, bending down to scrub the floor.

More than 100,000 people were present during the two-day weekend. And I think they were there all the time on the day we were. There were many babies in carriages and little children holding on to their parents' hands. Walking meant taking a few slow paces, then stopping for people coming the opposite way, before being able to take a few more steps. But I enjoy watching people as much as looking at art.

The hours passed quickly as we stopped at every tent to view the artists displays. We spoke with three other Israeli artists who divide their time between Israel and Florida.

Time for lunch. We entered three restaurants to be informed of a 50-minute wait.

After lunch we continued our walk. One last exhibit held powerful images of a Bulgarian artist whose work was highly expressive sculpture open in both form and decoration.



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A Passover meal that is sure to please



SOUP TO NUTS

DONNA KARLIN

It's time to plan our Passover menu. Every Pesach we make our favourite dishes, ones we make only at this time of year and look forward to at every Seder. Here are a few more to add which I hope will become favourites.



Chicken Breasts Stuffed with Fruit and Vegetable Tzimmes

- 10 chicken breasts, deboned, skin left on
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder to taste
- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 large carrots, thinly sliced
- 1 small butternut squash peeled, seeded and thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup pitted prunes
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped dried apricots
- 1/4 cup chopped pitted dates
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- Juice of 1/2 orange
- 1/4 cup honey

First make the tzimmes. Grease a 9x13" baking pan. Preheat oven to 350°. Layer the sweet potatoes, carrots, prunes, apricots and dates. Sprinkle with grated orange rind, juice and honey. Bake for 1 1/2 hours or until vegetables are very tender. Make a day ahead and chill. For chicken breasts, carefully separate the skin from one side of the chicken breast and stuff with the chilled tzimmes. Season with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Place in single layer in roasting pan that has been lightly greased. Roast for 1 hour at 375°.

Mushroom Kugel

- 2 cups matzo farfel
- 2 cups boiling water
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 3 tbsp oil
- 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- Paprika to taste



In large bowl, combine farfel with water; let cool. Beat in egg yolks, salt, pepper and oregano. In large frying pan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook mushrooms, onion and celery until softened, about 5 minutes. Remove 12 large mushroom slices for garnish. Stir remaining mushroom mixture into farfel mixture. Beat egg whites until stiff glossy peaks form. Stir about 1/4 of the whites into farfel mixture to lighten then fold in remaining whites. Transfer to greased 8" square baking dish. Garnish with reserved mushrooms. Top with paprika. Bake at 350° oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Serves 8. Recipe can be doubled. Bake in 9 x 13" pan.

Broccoli with Orange, Garlic and Ginger

- 2 large stems broccoli (1 1/4 lb)
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 tsp finely minced ginger
- 1 tsp finely minced garlic
- 1 red pepper, finely diced
- 2 tbsp orange juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Bring 2 quarts salted water to boil. Meanwhile, separate broccoli florets from stems, cutting close to florets. Trim stem ends, peel stems and cut into 1/2" thick diagonal slices. Separate florets into small clumps. Put oil, ginger, garlic, red pepper and orange juice into a 2-quart bowl which is oven or microwave safe. When water is boiling, add sliced stems. Boil, uncovered, un-

til almost tender, about 4 minutes. Add florets. Cook until still slightly crisp but very green, about 1 1/2 minutes. Drain immediately. Add to 2-quart bowl. Toss until well mixed. Add seasoning to taste. Can be made ahead. Gently reheat in low oven or microwave. Adjust seasoning. Serve hot. Serves 8 - 10.

Mandelhrot

- 1/4 cup chopped almonds
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup oil

Juice and grated peel of 1 orange
Juice and grated peel of 1 lemon
1 1/2 cups matzoh cake meal
1 tbsp potato starch
1/4 tsp cinnamon

Cinnamon-sugar mixture for topping

Optional: Melted semi-sweet chocolate for dipping

In processor with metal blade, chop nuts with 3 or 4 pulses and set aside. Place eggs, sugar, oil, juices and peels in work bowl, and process for 15 seconds. Add cake meal, potato starch, and cinnamon and process just until mixture is combined. Add the chopped nuts and pulse 2 or 3 times. Preheat oven to 350°. Sprinkle a board lightly with cake meal. Place the dough on board, and form into long rolls, about 1" thick. Place on lightly greased foil-lined cookie sheet and sprinkle all over with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake 30-45 minutes or until light brown in colour. Cut each loaf diagonally into 1/2" slices. Dip each cut side into cinnamon-sugar mixture and place each slice upright with spaces in-between on cookie sheet. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar and place in oven to toast. Be careful not to burn slices. Cool completely and store airtight. If desired, can dip one side into melted chocolate and place in refrigerator for chocolate to harden.



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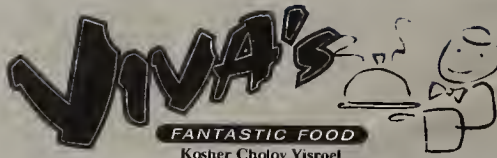


Pesach Cherry Dairy Kugel (low fat)

- 8 oz Passover noodles
- 8 oz Astro cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup Astro plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup frozen pineapple juice concentrate (defrosted)
- 1 egg
- 5 egg whites
- 1 cup canned cherries (drained)
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp almond extract

Topping:
3 Tbsp chopped toasted almonds
1/2 cup crushed Passover cereal

Boil noodles according to package instructions and drain. In a bowl combine noodles and remaining kugel ingredients. Coat a 9" glass baking dish with oil or cooking spray. Pour in the noodle mixture, combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over the noodles. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350°.



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KID LIT

Exodus story is simultaneously simple and complex

KID LIT

DEANNA SILVERMAN

The Book of Exodus is arguably the single most dramatic book ever written. Its tale is simultaneously simple and complex. On the surface it is a magical adventure story complete with a hero who is guided by a supernatural power, miraculous happenings, emancipation, wanderings and hardships that continue in the remaining books of the Torah.

On a deeper level it is the amazing story of God's rescue, care and instruction of a chosen, often rebellious, people. From slavery in Egypt to freedom and the giving of Torah are its major themes.

But its sub-themes are also essential: the need for constant guidance, forgiveness, and the struggle against reverting to unacceptable habits. At this level Exodus provides unique lessons in responsibility, trust, free will, and repentance.

Deeper still, Exodus and the subsequent books are a remarkable story of leadership and partnership between God and Moses. If we take the story to represent a continuation of Creation - creating a holy people - *tikkun olam* applied to humanity itself is definitely a critical theme.

I could go on and on but will stop after two more comments. First, every reference to Torah is, in itself, a reminder of the Ten Commandments and hence of Exodus. Second, three major festivals are derived from this one book of Torah: Pesach, Shavuot and Succot.

Although the Pesach Haggadah does not mention Moses, it does include references to the parting of the Red Sea, Sinai, the giving of the Ten Commandments, the wanderings in the desert and arrival at the promised land.

In preparing young children for Pesach I suggest giving them a sense of the whole before concentrating on what "makes this night different from all other nights."

For this purpose I recommend the following book:

Exodus

By Brian Wildsmith

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers 1998

Unpaged Ages 5-10

According to the brief biographical note on the book cover, author/illustrator Brian Wildsmith "believes that picture books are vitally important in developing a child's appreciation of beauty." To that I add my humble endorsement.

Therefore I'm delighted to report that *Exodus* is one of the most beautiful children's picture books I've had the good fortune to encounter. Its pictures are as stunningly lavish, colourful and detailed as the Steven Spielberg movie, *The Prince of Egypt*.

They instantly give readers a sense of the time and an appreciation of the varied environments of the story. Golden borders enclose each double page creating a unity for that small part of the story and a continuity to the whole.

The word "awesome" instantly came to mind. The story itself is awesome and Wildsmith's pictures make it even more so. Whether it's Moses in the bullrushes, the burning bush, the flight from Egypt, the wanderings in the desert, Sinai and the Ten Commandments, etc. they all come to life with a richness of understanding that thrills and excites.

As to the text, Wildsmith keeps it simple and straightforward. Although God is clearly the key actor, this is also the story of Moses from birth to death. Thus this *Exodus* goes well beyond events in the Torah's Book of Exodus but in a highly condensed, sanitized form.

In reasonably short order Wildsmith puts Moses in place and gets the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt to the Red Sea to Mount Sinai for the Ten Commandments to the land of Canaan. Along the way God gives the people manna and quails to eat and water to drink.

Because this book is intended for young children, Wildsmith downplays the scary parts of the Pesach story. For example, the ten plagues are mentioned and illustrated, but they are not featured. Rather the central picture is a Hebrew family celebrating the first Passover



From Exodus

feast, with the plagues shown around three edges of the two page spread.

Another example, both the parting of the Red Sea and its closing are mentioned. But only the Hebrews walking "through the middle of the sea on dry ground" is shown. The Egyptians are "swept away" with its meaning left to each child's imagination.

To summarize, *Exodus* is a visually beautiful and textually clear retelling of the bare bones story of four books of the Torah by an author/illustrator who understands and respects the sensitivities of his young readers while challenging their imagination.

Wishing you and your family wonderful Seders and a Happy Pesach!

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Mazel Tov to Dr. Mervin Gornitsky on his special birthday by Debra and Sid Bick, Alan and Stacy; by Sharon and Howard Appolite, Stephanie and Lindsey; and by David and Sharon Appolite, Ryan, Jaye and Brody.

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Wishing Clara Melnick a r'luah sh'leimah by Millie and Percy Weisstein.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear mother and Bubble Dueenie Cohen by Judith and David Kalin, Miriam, Michael and Aviva.

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How to convert your stock into "Venture Philanthropy"

If you have done well in today's surging stock markets, this is a good time to consider doing good for your community by creating a legacy that will last forever.

Last month's federal budget has made the income tax benefits from charitable giving even more attractive for people who hold securities. If you make a contribution of publicly traded stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other securities to the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, the income tax payable on their unrealized capital gains has been reduced. Normally a capital gain is taxed at approximately 32% of the gain. However, when the security is transferred as a donation to a charity, the tax on the gain is now 16%. In addition the charity can issue a receipt for the full value of the transferred securities. This results in a tax credit at the rate of 47.8%.

The budget also added a new benefit for those with philanthropic goals who hold stock options. A new provision allows a donor to claim a deduction in his/her income tax return for an amount equal to a third of a taxable stock option benefit when the shares acquired are donated to a charity. This is a big advantage to a donor as the income tax on the taxable benefit is reduced.

All this is not uncomplicated and we recommend that one consult a professional advisor when considering donating securities to charity. A member of the Foundation's Professional Advisory Committee would be pleased to meet with you.

Gift of stock scenario

Hy Tech is a member of the high-tech business community and works at a company that has prospered. The value of shares in this publicly traded company has increased since he was allotted stock options. He now wants to share his good fortune by establishing a charitable project that will be his personal legacy and benefit his community now and in the future.

Assume that his stock options are exercised at a price of \$100,000 and shares of the company having a value of \$200,000 are acquired. These securities are donated to the Foundation. This results in a taxable benefit, but under the new

rules, a tax deduction equal to a third of the benefit is allowed. The net tax on the benefit is at the rate of 32%. The capital gain arising on the transfer of the shares to the Foundation is taxed at a preferential rate of 16% on the gain. The Foundation issues a donation receipt for the full \$200,000, resulting in tax savings at the rate of 47.8% or \$79,800.

The Foundation establishes a fund in his name that will be held in perpetuity. Through the Foundation he can direct the income earned on his fund to any charitable organization he would like to support. He can even create his own charitable project, working in partnership with an organization. Having benefitted from his technical training, he wants to offer the same opportunities to others. He creates a technical education scholarship fund in partnership with Jewish Family Services for Jewish immigrants. Generations of new immigrants and their families will benefit from his generosity.

For more information call Executive Director Gordon Roston (798-4696, ext. 272).

New Funds

The Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the Shmuel and Malka Feig Endowment Fund, opened in honour of their 50th wedding anniversary by the Feigs' children, Sara and Leslie Breiner, Zahava and Barry Farber and Yakov and Denise Feig.



Shmuel and Malka Feig

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Mazel Tov to Harvey and Yvonne Lithwick on the birth of their grandchildren by Isabel and Norman Lesh.

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Best wishes to Cila Krantzberg on her special birthday

Continued on page 35

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In memory of Dave Polowin by John Piazza, Rick Brooks

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Mazal Tov to Evelyn Potechin on her birthday by Len and Mary Potechin.

Mazal Tov to Evelyn and Norman Potechin on their wedding anniversary by Len and Mary Potechin.

Mazal Tov to Mary Potechin on her 100th birthday by Bella Altman-Leikin.

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Thinking of Claire Metrick by Goldie and Albert Rivers. In memory of Eleanor Levin's husband by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

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SOL AND ZELAIN SHINDER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to Chuck Gardner in his new position by Zelaine and Sol Shinder.

Mazal Tov to Cynthia Engel on her special birthday by Zelaine and Sol Shinder.

In memory of Mary Alice by Zelaine and Sol Shinder.

SHMELZER-HOROVICH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Clara Fishbein by Sol and Anne Shmelzer. In memory of Sonia Agulnik by Sol and Anne Shmelzer.

LINDA SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Tani and Gregory Sanders on the birth of their son Harry Israel by Mark, Susan and Gregory Silverman.

JACK AND LINDA SMITH ENDOWMENT FUND

With appreciation to Dr. Irwin Kreisman by Jack and Linda Smith.

In memory of Leo Winnick by Jack and Linda Smith; and by Anna, Ivan and Josh Silverman.

Wishing Claire Metrick well by Creative Kasher Catering by Jack Smith.

Mazal Tov to Izzy and Mary Farber on the engagement of Sari-Anne to Adam Cantor by Creative Kasher Catering by

Jack Smith; and by Ivan, Anna and Josh Silverman.

Mazal Tov to Anna and Ronny Cantor on the engagement of Adam to Sari-Anne Farber by Creative Kasher Catering by Jack Smith.

In memory of Harry Greenberg by Jack and Linda Smith. Mazal Tov to Jonathan and Judy Bosloy on the birth of their daughter by Ivan, Anna and Josh Silverman; and by Jack and Linda Smith.

In memory of Mary Alice by Creative Kasher Catering by Jack Smith.

In memory of Sonia Agulnik by Creative Kasher Catering by Jack Smith.

BEN AND SHIRLEY SMOLKIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Ruth Cammy by Howie and Annice and families.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Claire Metrick by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

Mazal Tov to Morrie Konick on his special birthday by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

Mazal Tov to Sylvia and Meyer Goldin on their 50th wedding anniversary by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

Mazal Tov to Meyer Goldin on his special birthday by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

With appreciation to Rabbi Arnold Fine by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

With appreciation to Cantor Stephen Chaiel by Mark, Maria, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

In memory of Sonia Agulnik by Laura and Gordon Spergel.

BOBBY STEINBERG MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Robbie Brown by Lee Steinberg

WILLIAM "BILL" STERNBERG MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Gunter Nolte by auntie Claire, Teddy and Laya Jacobsen.

FREDA AND PHIL SWEDKO MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Harry Greenberg by Eileen, Bruce, Ariana and Dahlia Berovitch.

SAMUEL AND ANNE TALLER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Mary Alice by Enid and Jeff Gould.

CLAIRE AND SAM TANNER MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Polly Cohen on the engagement of her grandson Adam Cantor to Sari-Anne Farber by Lana and Stephen Tanner and family.

Mazal Tov to Ronny and Anna Cantor on the engagement of their son Adam to Sari-Anne Farber by Lana and Stephen

Tanner and family.

Wishing Shirley Levitt a speedy recovery by Lana and Stephen Tanner.

GAIL AND STEPHEN VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Mary Alice by Gail and Stephen Victor. Mazal Tov to Jeff Overton on his Bar Mitzvah by Gail and Stephen Victor.

SONIA AND ARTHUR VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Fran Binder's father by Elaine and Wally Viner.

Mazal Tov to Fran and Herb Binder on the birth of their granddaughter by Elaine and Wally Viner.

SANDRA AND SAM ZUNDER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to Sandra and Sam Zunder on the engagement of their son Allan to Kiki (Merrile) by Ben and Dorothy Greenberg.

Contributions may be made by phoning Kayla Mallay at 798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is ojcf@jccottawa.com. Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes. We accept Visa and MasterCard.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 3	TUESDAY, APRIL 4	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5	THURSDAY, APRIL 6	FRIDAY, APRIL 7	SATURDAY, APRIL 8	SUNDAY, APRIL 9
<p>Soloway Jewish Community Centre and Jewish Education Through Torah presents Insights to the Haggadah, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Soloway Jewish Community Centre Friendship Club Luncheon, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, noon.</p> <p>Movie Night, "With Our Own Hand", Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>The Greenberg Families Library presents a brief history of Yiddish Theatre with Songs, featuring Ruth Katz, lecturer, Floralove Katz, vocalist, Natasha Guille, piano, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 7:30 p.m.</p>	 <p><i>The Centre of Your Life</i></p> <p>Health Talk Series, Speaker: Chiropractor Sylvia Craston, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Miracle Begins Group of Narcotics Anonymous, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 8:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Drop-in Shabbat, Growing Tree Pre-School, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbat Shalom Drop-in, Gsnon Pre-School, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbat for Tots Drop-in Centre, Tiny Treasures Nursery School, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbos Party Ages 2-5, Torah Academy of Ottawa, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 7:20 PM</p>	<p>Temple Israel and Hadasah-WIZD present Charity Auction 2000, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales, Preview: 7:00 p.m. Auction: 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Jewish Mysticism Class with Rabbi Botnick, Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue, 10:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Soloway Jewish Community Centre Bagels and Books Program, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Talent 760, Art and Music Show, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 1:00-6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Children's Passover Workshops: Matzah Baking, Crafts and Wine Making, Soloway Jewish Community Centre and Chabad, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 2:00 p.m.</p>
MONDAY, APRIL 10	TUESDAY, APRIL 11	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12	THURSDAY, APRIL 13	FRIDAY, APRIL 14	SATURDAY, APRIL 15	SUNDAY, APRIL 16
<p>Soloway Jewish Community Centre and Jewish Education Through Torah present Insights to the Haggadah, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Soloway Jewish Community Centre Friendship Club, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, noon.</p> <p>Zimris Choir Rehearsal, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group, The Retreat by Aharon Appelfeld, Reviewer: Shirley Schildkraut, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Canada Israel Cultural Foundation, Speaker: Sara Vered, Topic: "Jewish Elements in the National Gallery", Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>The Miracle Begins Group of Narcotics Anonymous, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 8:00 p.m.</p>	 <p>United Jewish Appeal Spring Fever, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Drop-in Shabbat, Growing Tree Pre-School, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbat Shalom Drop-in, Ganon Pre-School, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbat for Tots Drop-in Centre, Tiny Treasures Nursery School, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Shabbos Party Ages 2-5, Torah Academy of Ottawa, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 7:29 PM</p>		<p>Jewish Mysticism Class with Rabbi Botnick, Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue, 10:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Greenberg Families Library Children's Hour, Topic: Passover, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Zimris Choir Rehearsal, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 1780 Kerr Avenue, 3:30 p.m.</p>

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schater, calendar co-ordinator at 798-9818 extension 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided. You may fax to 798-9839.

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Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:
Anita Berk, Montreal (mother of Debra Ward)

Norman Bernstein
John Caplan
Betty Zinman, Montreal (mother of Lawrence "Butch" Zinman)
May their memories be a blessing.

The Condolence Column is offered as a public service to the community.
There is no charge.

For a listing in this column, please call Kayla Mallay
• 798-4696, ext. 274.

Voice mail is available.

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